HAVA JAVA

We rank local coffee shops.

LEGAL!

page 2

The
Shakerite

March 27, 2003 · Volume 73 · Issue 7 · Shaker Heights High School · 15911 Aldersyde Drive · Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

CALL FOR PEACE

Forty students joined anti-war protest March 5 on Public Square.

page 4

RESPECT LIFE
WAR+GREED DOES NOT = PEACE

Hats on! Hats off! And old rules still apply

• Some headgear now allowed in halls, cafeteria, but not in classrooms

> "Now I get harassed by security guards every 10 minutes in the halls."
>
> Kathleen Rains
> junior

By Kyan Safavi
NEWS EDITOR

SLAM! CRASH! SMASH!

Thunderous noises radiate from the hallway as a student bangs against a locker outside Room 217. Inside the room, math teacher Gene Tournoux shakes his head and, in a comment dripping with sarcasm, says "Yeah, sure, things have really changed!"

COMMENTARY • **Enforcing hall rules disrupts class time • page 7**

Tournoux believes that, despite a renewed effort by the school administration to enforce hallway policies, many old problems have not gone away. Thirteen days after a school-wide enforcement effort, he believes a great deal of improvement is still necessary.

Hats, headphones, cell phones and general hallway behavior have become a concern for Principal Michael Griffith as he works to clarify and modify the school's hallway policies. On March 7 Griffith spoke to the student body via PA at the beginning of third period. In a nine-minute address, he urged students not to wear hats in classrooms and to follow

SEE **RULES,** PAGE 3

A NEW RULE AND RENEWED EMPHASIS

- NEW: No hats in classrooms. Hats allowed in hallways, cafeteria and senior lounge.
- NEW: No wave caps allowed in building.
- OLD: Hats are not appropriate attire to wear anywhere in the building.
- RE-EMPHASIS: Cell phones cannot be turned on during school day.
- RE-EMPHASIS: All students in halls between classes must have passes.

A new stage of learning

• Directing a student play takes nerves of steel

By Allie Jennings
STAFF REPORTER

"I don't even know where here *is*! I don't even know where *I* am!"

"No, no, no; you did it again; emphasis on '*am*!'"

"Where *I am*? That sounds really strange."

"Not as strange as 'where *I* am,' trust me; start again."

"I don't even know where here is. I don't even know where *I* am!"

"You did it again!"

"I did?"

"Yes, try it again."

For seniors Doug Martin and Tina Jackson, actor and director of the New Stages play "Innocence," fine-tuning the play is not as easy as one may think. Do you have free time, a creative mind, mega problem solving skills, nerves of stainless steel and a high tolerance for anything and everything thrown at you? You could be a New Stages director... maybe. Responsibility reaches a higher level as superhuman students create new worlds on stage while trying to keep their own worlds in tact.

New Stages is an annual Shaker theater production written, directed and performed by students. Peer pressure is an obstacle all participants must face. Directors, as the connection between the original piece and the final product, have it even harder, with actors to tame, writers to please and rules to follow.

"The hardest part is to interpret the playwright's vision, take it and my own, and mesh them together," Jackson said.

Senior Sara Barnett shares the same views. "As in any production I think it's very difficult to let your play go, and leave it in the hands of the directors," she said. Visiting once or twice over two weeks of rehearsals, Barnett was pleased to see what Jackson was doing with her play.

With an actor quitting after a few days of rehearsal and a cast seemingly stricken with Attention Deficit Disorder, Jackson had her hands full. Still, in her second year as New Stages director, she knew what she was getting into.

Assistant director Anna Sebok, whose job it is to keep rehearsals moving and make sure actors are in line, felt differently. "I had no idea what I was getting into," Sebok said. But she added that Jackson made the experience enjoyable. "Tina has

SEE **STAGE,** PAGE 13

SENIOR ACTORS DAVID Ratner and Doug Martin rehearse with senior director Tina Jackson. It was Jackson's second stint as a New Stages' director.

Students cope with long-term teacher absences

By Jason Plautz
STAFF REPORTER

It's an event that every student enjoys - walking into class on the day of the big quiz and seeing a substitute.

"Yes! No teacher, no quiz, no work!"

But the teacher isn't there the next day, either. Or the next. Or the next.

Pretty soon, it's been a week with a substitute and without instruction from your regular teacher. A week becomes a month, and now the class is really behind. The absence that students once celebrated has become the bane of the class.

Although extended faculty absences are rare, they do occur. Illness, surgery, pregnancy or family emergencies take teachers away from the classroom, sometimes leaving students and substitutes struggling to make sense of the curriculum.

Last year, Sandy

SEE **TEACHER,** PAGE 10

Will Bostwick • THE SHAKERITE

SENIORS DEREK and Eric Comedy sell apparel on their site twinzkix.cjb.net. They claim they make almost $1000 a day.

This website is not a joke

• Comedy brothers sell shoes online

By Alex Buder Shapiro
NEWS EDITOR

All the hard work has really only been about one thing for seniors Derek and Eric Comedy. And that's the 20-inch rims.

"We're getting ourselves some nice cars. . . 20-inch gold rims. You'll like it when you see it," Derek said.

"First thing I'm getting is a luxury car. With 20-inch rims," Eric agreed.

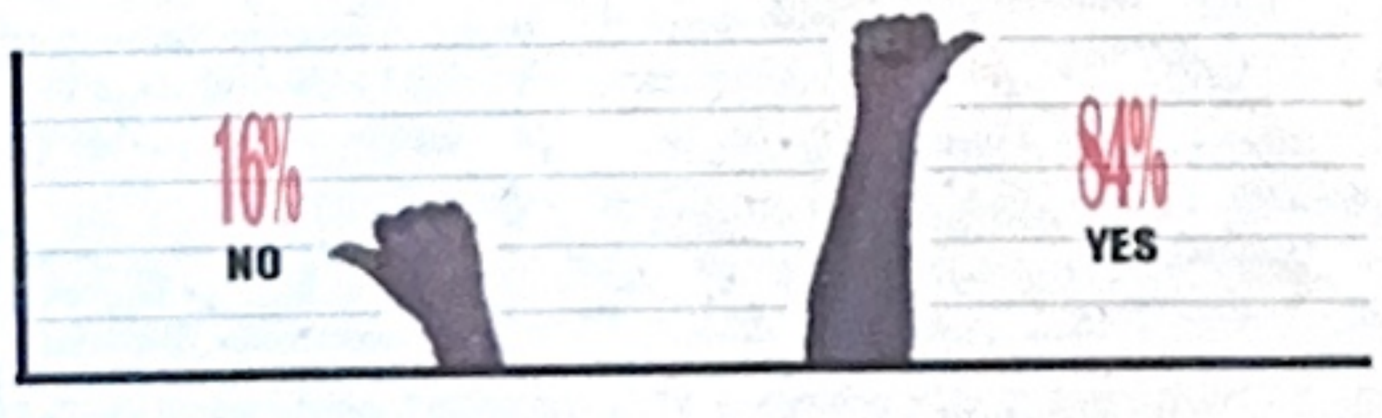
The money used to purchase the aforementioned vehicles is coming from the twins' website, Twinzkix.net, which sells unreleased Nike Jordans, along with an assortment of other designer apparel.

SEE **TWINS,** PAGE 4

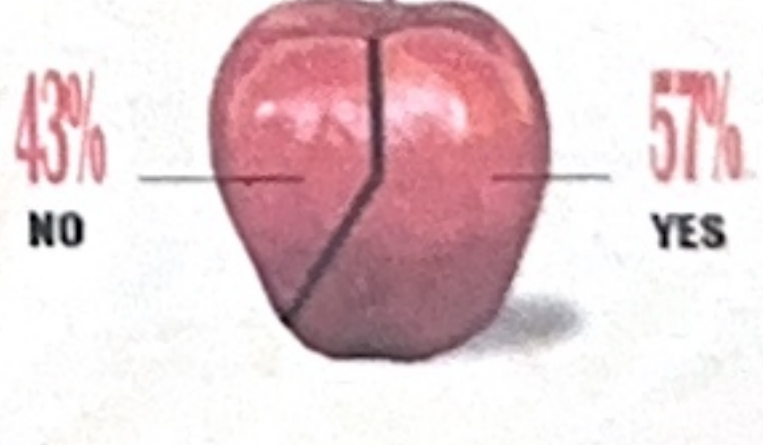
> "I'll sign on at 1 a.m., and at 3, they are still on. One or another is always doing something."
>
> Reggie Motley
> freshman

On the Line

Should the school be able to expel students?



Do you think teachers should have tenure?



Scientific poll of 97 students with a margin of error of +/-10 percent. Journalism II and Shakerite classes telephoned students.

Hairway to seven?

Led Zeppelin
"Stairway to Heaven"

What it actually says:

"If there's a bustle in your hedgerow/ don't be alarmed now/ it's just a spring clean for the May queen. Yes, there are two paths you can go by/ but in the long run there's still time to change the road you're on"

What they thought it said:

Karelle Hall
junior

"If there's a bus don't be lonely / it's just something from a bakery / yes there's something to go by / you can still change"

Eric Hulme
senior

"If there's a bustle in your bedroom / don't be alone now / it's just a sprinkle for a baker / there's still time to change the road you're on"

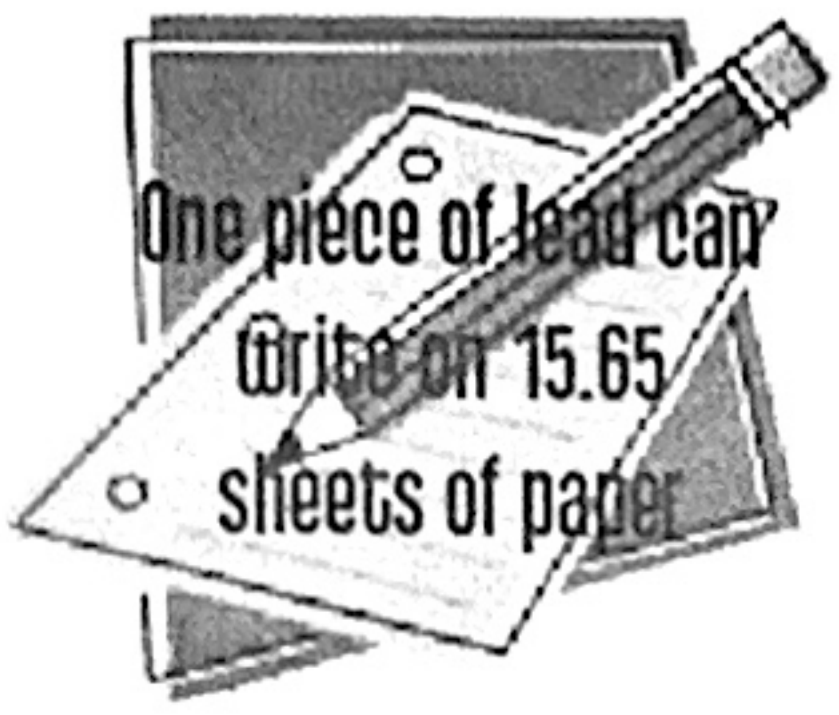
Lauren Slive
sophomore

"If there's a bus in your bedroom / don't be lonely / yes there are tubas to go by in the long run / there's a road to go by"

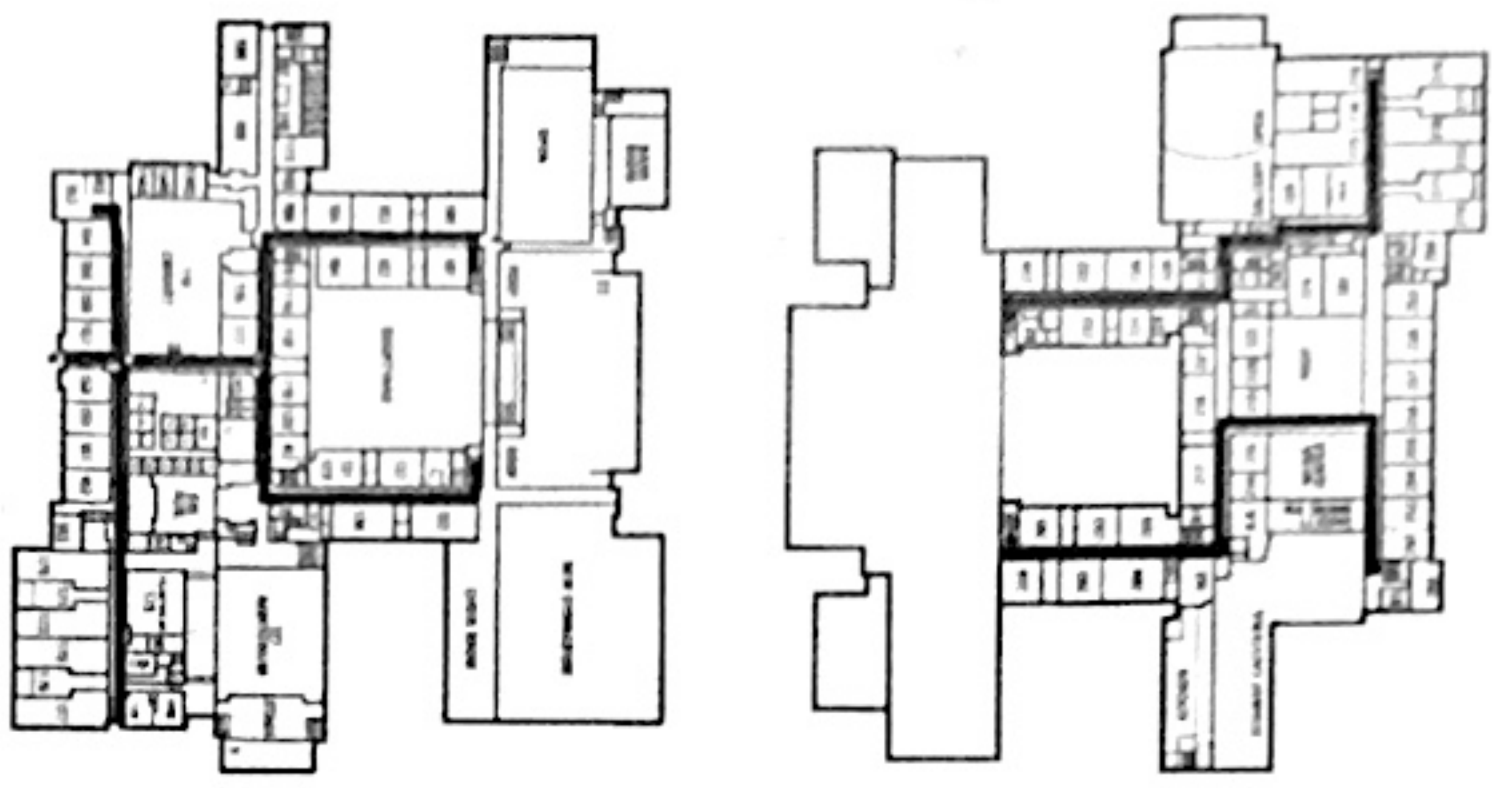
-Compiled by Sarah Wang

How much? How many? Who cares?

· The Shakerite quantifies your life


One piece of lead can write on 15.65 sheets of paper

There are 88 doors leading to the outside



It takes 15 rolls of toilet paper to cover the area allotted in the above school map.

There are 131,550 calories in a fully stocked vending machine

-Compiled by Sara Reichstein and Rebecca Wolff

Best brew for your buck

By Jeanne Bright
UP FRONT EDITOR

· Like most exhausted students, I am too concerned with the craziness of my life to get enough sleep. This is where coffee comes in handy. Sure, its not that hard to make at home, but its nearly impossible to get tasting as good as the professionals do. Luckily, new coffee places are popping up every day. Even for those who cannot stomach the "robust" (otherwise known as bitter) flavor of plain coffee, mochas are an easy way to go. Mocha is coffee mixed with chocolate and milk, which even most coffee beginners can handle. I personally have a liking towards iced mochas because I find them to be more flavorful than their hot counterparts. Thus, I have rated the best places to get iced mochas around Shaker.

Phoenix Coffee
2287 Lee Rd. (South of the corner of Cedar and Lee)
Small Mocha $2.55

It is a big shame that this coffee place isn't closer. The atmosphere is amazing; lively yellow walls with a mix of comfy sofas and traditional coffeehouse tables with retro posters everywhere. The iced mocha was more on the chocolaty side of the spectrum. The drink was very creamy and sweetened perfectly. The whipped cream was less than perfect, and although chocolate shavings seem like they'd be good on top, they weren't. All and all, Phoenix was very impressive and a great steal.

4.5 out of 5

Starbucks Coffee
Look down the street
Small Mocha $2.75

I was surprised with the quality of this mocha: it definitely isn't as good as other things Starbucks has to offer. Larger Starbucks are a great place to go to hang out, but they look so generic after a while. Smaller Starbucks are too small and ordinary. The mocha tasted very grainy and too much like espresso. It also seemed like they just poured a cup of chocolate syrup into it, expecting it to taste good. It didn't. If you have a craving for overpriced coffee, try a Frappacino or a Carmel Macchiato.

3 out of 5

Kokopelli's
On the corner of Lee and Van Aken
Small Mocha $2.20

I was amazed at how great this place is. The space was small, but quaint. It looked like a really nice grandmother's kitchen but it's not fussy looking in the least. The mocha was fantastic, blending the right amount of coffee and chocolate. It wasn't as creamy as Phoenix or Arabica, but it still was good. This is obviously the best brew for your buck.

5 out of 5

Café Adagio
Van Aken Center
Medium Mocha $3.25 (there is no small)

This shop looks like it attempted modern styling, but its attempts backfired. There were a couple of places on the floor where there is noticeable rust. It's not the best place to sit and drink, but the coffee is great. The mocha was much more on the coffee side, but in a good way. It was still sweet and had a bit of a chocolate aftertaste and lacked the normal bitterness of coffee. Adagio is definitely a better place to get whole bean coffee and make it at home.

3.5 out of 5

Arabica Coffeehouse
Fairmount Circle
Small Mocha $2.75

Although this coffee is more expensive than its other local counterparts, and it is worth it. This is by far and away the best place to hang out, merely because it has the highest seating capacity. There is always a large array of people around, and it is perfect for all generations. The mocha is the creamiest and sweetest of those tested, but it is not very coffee-like. Arabica also has lovely variety of pastries and cakes.

4 out of 5

Surf the Net

www.homestarrunner.com

Trust this website's large array of fans. Follow the characters, such as Marzipan and Homestar, on their weekly rampages, including hilarious cartoons and games. The best part of the website is the Strongbad emails, where Strongbad himself will respond to your questions.

www.ykkamerica.com

Have you ever looked at a zipper and wondered what the YKK stands for? 64 percent of students polled said it was on their zipper. This company's website shows the variety of products they make, including architectural products, hooks, loops, snaps, buttons and, of course, zippers.

-Compiled by Jeanne Bright

CORRECTIONS

- In the Mar. 4 issue of The Shakerite, Brandon Willey, Morissa Freiberg, Ed Cormany, Ed Ceaser, Adam Margolius, Brandon McCafferty and Meg O'Neill's names were misspelled.
- In the Mar. 4 issue of The Shakerite, Will Wemer and Matt Seidner contributed to the SGORR story.
- In the Mar. 4 issue of The Shakerite, Brian Sutorius was not attributed for the anti-war cartoon.
- In the Mar. 4 issue of The Shakerite, in an infographic representing student responses to a poll question about prison sentences for first time drug offenders, the percentages were reversed. The correct responses were 74 percent against jail time while 26 percent were for jail time. The Shakerite regrets the error.

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critique.
The Shakerite will hold a critique session on Friday, March 28 at 3 p.m. All students and faculty are invited to attend to comment on the content of the paper.

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Opinions expressed in The Shakerite articles are those of their respective authors, and do not represent the views of The Shakerite, Shaker Heights High School or the Shaker Heights City School District. The "Rite Idea" presents the views of the editorial board; however, it may not reflect the opinion of The Shakerite staff. Asterisks denote members of the editorial board. The Shakerite is a public forum published nine times a year for and by students of Shaker Heights High School. During school days the Shakerite may be reached at 216.295.4246

Put it in your planner >>>>>

Spring break
It's finally here! Kick back 'cuz this is the last week of freedom this semester.
Place SHHS
Time 2:58 pm
29th

Early dismissal
The only early dismissal of the month happens today, so get pumped!
Place SHHS
Time 2:07 pm
13th

No school!!!
This is not just any Friday. It's a Good Friday. No school, so take a break and relax.
Place SHHS
Time 8:05 am
18th

Spring fling
Come to the last dance of the year. It's the spring fling so come show off your best swings.
Place South Gym
Time 8:00 pm
26th

Levy on the rise

• On May 6, Shaker Heights residents will vote on whether or not to increase their property taxes to benefit the Shaker schools. Here's a hopefully not too taxing explanation of the issues surrounding the levy.

check it out
Shaker spin
historic foundations
school funding

THE DISTRICT'S PITCH

The district claims it needs an increase in property taxes because its expenses keep on increasing while its revenue remains the same. The Shaker schools paid $55 million in salaries and benefits to its 812 employees last year (The Cleveland Indians will probably pay $57 million to their 25 players this year). All teacher salaries increase 3.3% a year to adjust to increases in inflation. Healthcare costs have increased substantially over the last year, as well.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

The Committee for the Shaker Schools is leading the campaign for the levy. Committee Treasurer John Murphy said that the group needs $20,000-$30,000 to fund the campaign. "I am cautiously optimistic that the levy will pass. The economy is an issue, though," he said. Murphy reiterated that the levy is needed to maintain the current system - not to launch new programs.

YES!

SINK OR SWIM

The first property tax was probably established in 991 by the English government. It needed money to fight against Scandinavian pirates so it made everyone pay taxes on the value of their land.

ALEVITATION

Levies are much more recent. In the early 1800s, states collected money from marriage fees and liquor licenses and distributed the funds to school districts. When the funds collapsed, towns had to raise the money on their own and asked residents to vote to increase their property taxes.

NO SCHOOL FOR YOU

School levies were not popular — especially among the wealthy, since they were paying to send workers' children to school, when the children could have been working. The Philadelphia National Gazette stated in an 1834 editorial that "the peasant must labor during those hours of the day which his wealthy neighbor can give to the abstract culture of the mind."

National Gazette

THE TALLY

	YES	NO
1992 Levy	56%	44%
1994 Levy	49%	51%
1995 Levy	67%	33%
2000 Levy	60%	40%

Shaker residents have passed nine of the 11 levies they have voted on over the last 23 years.

BOUNTIFUL BUCKEYE

money spent per pupil

Shaker	$12,384
Beachwood	$20,026
Warrensville	$10,884
CH-UH	$12,904

Today most states play active roles in funding education. For example, Shaker received $8344 per student from local property taxes and $2899 per student from the state in 2001. Ohio provides more money for poorer districts.

GREEN HILLS

Not all states finance local education this way. In Vermont, for example, since 1997, all local property taxes are sent to the state, which then distributes $5000 per student to each district. If a district wants to spend more money per child, it must increase local property taxes.

Vermont
BGR 469

WHAT IS A LEVY?

A levy is an increase in property taxes. Property taxes are taxes on the value of property — homes and businesses.

JARVIS' JOUST

INTERN
REVEN
SERVIC

House Bill 920 was passed because of a Californian — Howard Jarvis. Jarvis was upset because, as the value of his home increased due to inflation, the amount he paid in property taxes also increased. Jarvis launched an initiative in California called Proposition 13 that stated that all taxes had to be affordable. The proposition passed in 1978. Jarvis' campiagn inspired other states to pass similar bills.

FREEZE

Revenues stay constant because of an Ohio law called House Bill 920. It states that even if the value of your home increases, the amount you pay in taxes stays virtually frozen until another school levy is passed.

MILL BILLS

You pay taxes on 35% of the value of your home. Property taxes are measured in mills. One mill is equal to one-tenth of of one percent (.001). Therefore, if the millage is one and you own a $100,000 house you pay the government $35.

MAXTAX

Shaker mills

Schools	65
County	13
City	10
Library	4

So what is the millage in Shaker? In Shaker your parents pay 65 mills in property taxes that benefit the schools. Those are the highest school property taxes in the state (the lowest are in Kelley's island). If this levy passes, Shaker residents will pay 9.6 more mills to the schools.

Compiled by Joseph Tartakoff from "Education in a Free Society" by S. Rippa, "Taxes" by B. Sapinsley, "Taxing Ourselves" by J. Slemrod, Ohio Department of Taxation "Property Taxation and School Funding," Citizens League Research Institute - citizensleague.org, and Shaker Heights City School District "Finance and Audit Committee Report."

Griffith reaffirms hallway policies

FROM **HALLS** PAGE 1

existing rules governing cell phones, headphones and general hallway demeanor, such as not using profanity and cooperating with teacher directives.

Griffith will continue to remind students about these rules in an effort to create a "more focused environment" at the high school.

Junior Kathleen Rains believes that the change has not benefited the school.

"Now I get harassed by security guards every 10 minutes in the halls because I'm not a senior," Rains said. "The area near my locker seems to be the chill spot. Nobody really does anything to get the hall flowing."

One of the key changes in school policy is that students are now permitted to wear hats in the hallways, cafeteria and senior lounge but must remove them upon entering a classroom or office. Griffith made the change because he believes enforcement detracts from more important matters.

"The whole issue with hats for me is misdirected energy. We have many more serious issues, such as academics and underachieving students, than wearing hats in the halls," said Griffith, who added that the previous hat policy created a lot of unnecessary friction between teachers and students.

Griffith issued a summary of his thoughts on the hall policies to teachers March 7 and noted that "fair or not fair, no wave caps" were to be worn in the building. Griffith said he sees no inconsistency in this statement in light of the new hat policy.

"I thought it was not appropriate [to wear wave caps] because it seemed to me that wave caps need to be tucked in just right and tied and that it is not a reasonable expectation for students to be able to put them on and take them off throughout the day," he said.

> "The whole issue with hats for me is misdirected energy"
>
> Michael Griffith
> Principal

Thus far, Griffith noted, there has been solid cooperation by students and he notices a much better flow in the hallways.

Junior Mychael Reeves, however, thinks otherwise. Reeves, who wears a wave cap in the hallways, believes that no changes are being made. To prove his point, Reeves walked directly past a group of security guards and was not stopped. "See, they ain't say nothing. I walk right by and nothing happens," he said.

In his address, Griffith went on to reaffirm the existing rule, new last fall, that states cell phones are permitted in the building but are not to be used in classrooms or hallways. He also reemphasized the rule forbidding the use of headphones in the building from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., stating that teachers should not see headphones or have to ask a student to put them away. Cell phones are to be confiscated if they cause a disruption during class and given to the students' assistant principals. Similar guidelines govern headphones.

Hallway conditions after school have also become an area of focus for Griffith. "There is a growing concern that between 3 and 4 p.m. students are not going to places that they need to go and using their time in a positive way. Many of us have forgotten that this is an academic period also. We are trying to reclaim this time," Griffith said.

Overall, Shaker's policies fall somewhere in between those of other area high schools. At Mayfield Heights High School, all teachers are required to monitor student behavior in the halls, and hats are not allowed, except for religious or ethnic exceptions, according to secretary Julie Owen. Mayfield students may use headphones in the halls.

Cleveland Heights High School forbids hats, cell phones and head wraps (with religious exceptions) altogether.

As war continues, Shaker reflects

By Sara Reichstein
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Thursday, March 20, was just another day at Shaker Heights High School.

Students went (or didn't go) to class, teachers taught their scheduled syllabi, and life proceeded just like any other day. An outsider coming in would never have known that at 10:15 p.m. the previous night, President George W. Bush announced the onset of war.

Within Shaker walls, however, the war sometimes fell too close to home. Junior Will Ajayi's older brother Lee, a 2000 Shaker graduate, is a U.S. Army Ranger sent to Iraq March 25.

"It's kinda tough, since you know what could happen. You just have to have faith and hope he comes home safe," Ajayi said, adding that he does not know exactly where his brother will be but hopes to find out soon.

Though no formal acknowledgement of the war was made to students during school on Thursday, a letter was sent to all Shaker parents' homes on Friday, stating safety precautions the district has established in the event of an attack. The letter also contained advice taken from National Association of School Psychologists website on how to help children cope with the situation.

Medve

Textbook Coordinator Loretta Medve takes this approach at home as well.

"I don't watch TV or read the news that much. I don't want to hear about it. The more you dwell on it, the more you get scared," said Medve, whose three sons all served or continue to serve in the Navy.

Her youngest son, Rob, pilots search and rescue helicopters.

"They could call him up; they have even called up retired people," Medve said. "I'm scared because I don't want him to go, but that's his duty. And he will do his duty no matter what, and I'm very proud of him."

Twins tally profits with shoes

• Business brisk at senior brothers' website featuring rare Air Jordans

FROM **COMEDY** PAGE 1

The brothers report that the business adventure makes a little less than $1000 a day and began in spring of 2002 with a discovery by senior Justin Reese, a friend of the twins. He found a website selling Jordans straight from Hong Kong.

"We were like, 'Let's get their shoes that no one can get.' So we paid $200 and everyone [at school] was all, 'Where did you get them from?' " Derek said. Curiosity piqued, he began visiting chat rooms, hoping to find someone who could help him obtain more unreleased shoes. He eventually received a wire message from a man in Hong Kong who agreed to sell him some pairs at $200 each. Derek retailed the shoes at $400 and set up a website to manage orders.

"If shoes come out in a store, there are lines out of the door. Think about how many people want what doesn't come out in stores . . . I took a risk and ran with it," Derek said.

The income was originally meant to help the brothers through what they call "hard times," but the elevated social status that came with trendy shoes was a definite bonus.

"The shoes raised my popular rate. I was just going to buy this one pair, and then I got all this attention. *And then, with the girls, well, if she doesn't like the way this pair looks, then maybe she will like the next ones,"* Derek said. He spent hours searching through message boards and chat rooms when he was contacted by a man who told him he could get the Jordans for considerably less than $200. Derek sent the man constant emails, badgering him to reveal his supplier, but the man refused. Then one April morning, an instant message popped up on Derek's computer screen that would change everything.

"It was April 9, 2002 at 3:12 a.m. and six seconds, and I got this instant message," Derek said. "And I was tired, but I knew a goldmine had hit me." The man decided to divulge the name of a Hong Kong merchant who sold Nikes at a significantly reduced price. (The Comedy twins have asked that the price not be printed.) Business began to boom, and another Hong Kong supplier who had heard that he was "bringing in some big sales" contacted Derek. The new supplier agreed to drop ship — ship directly to the customer — so Derek wouldn't have to act as a middleman.

Eric helped start the business and remains active on the advertising side, which is mostly word-of-mouth. Eric has also made flyers and business cards.

"I know how to do as much [as Derek]; he just does it. When he isn't home, I will hop on the computer and check over the Internet . . . it's both our business," Eric said. He makes occasional trips to Columbus to peddle their wares.

Freshman Reggie Motley has been inspired by the twins' efforts to build their company.

"I'll sign on at 1 a.m., and at 3, they are still on. One or another is always doing something," Motley said. He hopes to open his own site, HotKix-R-Us, sometime in the near future.

Now the site has customers all across the world, with the highest concentration in New York City. Multiple suppliers have contacted Derek in hopes of replacing his current one, and he tells them he'll use them as back up if his main doesn't deliver.

The Comedy's had to get a tax ID from Nike, which authorizes them to sell its merchandise. If anyone from Nike had a question about the site's legitimacy, the brothers just have to give their identification number.

Nike spokesman Dan Wire said that they could not comment on individual resellers because there are too many.

TwinzKix Inc. isn't just about shoes anymore, though.

"Now we go on eBay and whatever we can get a good deal on, like Gucci and Burberry, we throw it on the site," Derek said. Twinzkix.cjb.net currently offers watches, throwback jerseys and jersey dresses, Timberland boots and Manolo Blahniks, hats, du-rags, sunglasses, belts, purses, other assorted Gucci, Coach, Chanel and Christian Dior clothing and accessories and of course, the shoes: Jordans, Air Maxes and Air Forces. The page also includes pictures of girls who are voted "dime of the month." A dime, or dyme, as defined by Ohio Dimes at Black Planet, is "not only an attractive person, but someone that has a beautiful soul." The dimes are paid to spend some extra time in a chat room run through the site.

"It draws a lot of attention to the site . . . you tell them what you bought because they love people who spend money," Derek said.

The brothers have another site, Twinzkix.net, which they actually started before Twinzkix.cjb.net. It has higher prices. Although it is still the Comedy twins' site, Twinzkix.net has its own staff and is overseen by the brothers' cousin.

"If you don't know about [Twinzkix].cjb.net and you only know about [Twinzkix].net, then you pay the higher [price,]" Derek said.

Lest anyone think the running a company is all money-making and no work, Derek spends at least an hour everyday making sure that everything works, and "all the pictures pop." Sometimes he will stay online all day, searching for something new to put on the site.

"You never know what you might find, or if you might find someone who got good stuff," said Derek, who spent all the daylight hours of his summer working on the computer. "I have quite a few sites I go on . . . I ask what would be best to sell. Then, my supplier sends me some pictures and I put them up and see if they sell."

Derek says he has to put his company over his homework sometimes, due to the fact that he has "heavier home responsibilities" than most students which lead him to need the money he makes via his business.

Derek says his number one priority is meeting his customers' needs.

"It's all about the clientele. I remember when I used to get two to three emails a day, and now when I go home, I have 50 to 70."

The work is all worth it when the twins are recognized for their efforts; they call the business "their social life."

"I want to stand out. I don't think I'm better than anyone, but I want you to think I am," Derek said.

"There is no better feeling than when people see us up on the wall," said junior Jason Smith, one of the twin's best friends who has been helpful in the building of the site and often gets discounts on the merchandise. "Be on the look out for us."

Derek sees himself as part of a new wave of businesspeople.

"I'm just a young, black entrepreneur, trying to make a change. I'm trying to change the way teenagers are viewed. A lot of black men who act the way I act and dress the way I do are looked at as lower in life. You don't have to look downward on me because of the way I dress. I still have a good head, " he said.

Eric believes that their work is about proving that success can be born from more humble origins.

"We are giving it to the ghetto kids. We were born in the ghetto. We went from zero to hero," he said.

And the ghetto kids can appreciate some 20-inch rims.

NET NUMBERS

$170, 750.85
Total profit after 11 months

$1400
Maximum made in a day

15
Average pairs sold a day

900
Pairs of shoes Comedys own

War brings new generation of protest to life

By Maguerite Moore
STAFF REPORTER

"BP, Exxon, Mobile, Shell; take your oil and go to hell."

This anti-war chant filled the streets of Public Square during one of the many student-run rallies around the country on March 5, the unofficial day of non-compliance. More than 40 Shaker students joined 400 Cleveland teens in peaceful protest.

After 45 minutes of anti-war speeches made primarily by university students, the marching and chanting began. Police followed the protestors to stop them from moving onto certain streets.

The protest had quite an impact on oncoming traffic. "We took over the streets during rush hour," said senior Elana Averbach, organizer of the Shaker contingent. "Holding signs and marching through the streets when it was so cold really got the message across."

Averbach is a member of the Not In Our Name Youth chapter, a project that was formed to strengthen and expand resistance to the U.S. government after Sept. 11. She helped organize the March 5 protest because she felt teens weren't involved. "Most people at the protests I've been to were middle-aged because they have seen what war can do, like in Vietnam. [Youths] don't seem to understand what's going on," she said.

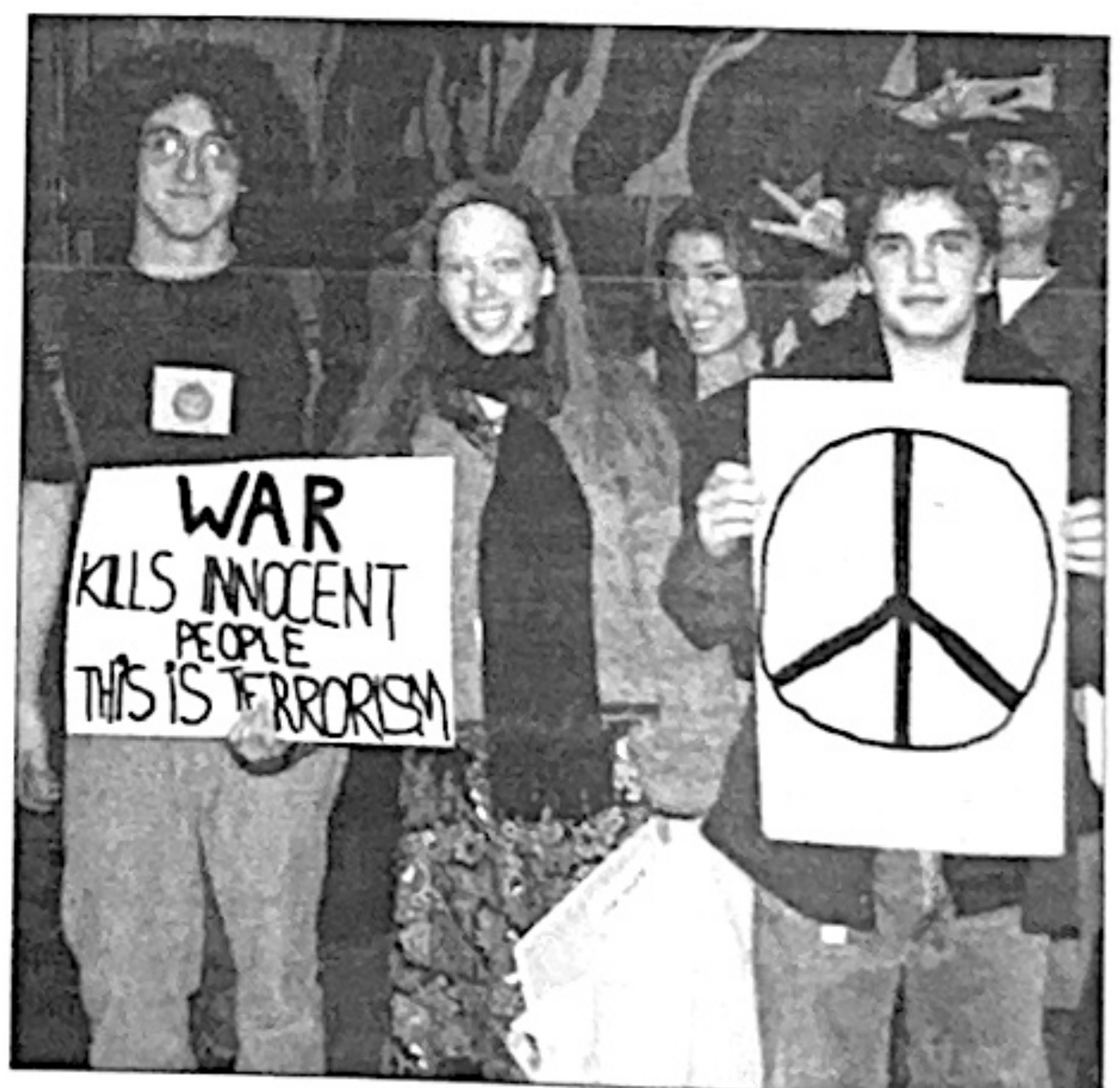
Senior Emily Pfaff decided to protest after seeing signs Averbach posted throughout the school, but she left the protest disappointed.

"Most of the people who spoke swore in every other word, yelled at people who passed by and advocated violence. It made me understand why people stereotype teenagers and don't want us to be a part of government decisions," she said.

Junior Karelle Hall uses her backpack to convey her opinions. It reads, "Regime change starts at home" and, "What would Jesus bomb?"

While most of the people at the protest were supporters of the anti-war movement, some onlookers yelled profanity at the marchers.

"A couple of strangers were cussing us out and one guy flicked us off," first-time protestor sophomore Jessy Walker said.



Will Bostwick •THE SHAKERITE

SENIORS DOUG MARTIN, Elana Averbach, Michelle Kirvanek and Chris Fuentes stand outside the large auditorium.

Electrical repairs charge New Stages XXI with new challenge

By Anna Hutt
COPY EDITOR

Unanticipated electrical repairs gave New Stages participants a whole new understanding of "let's get this show on the road."

Tenth period on Friday, Principal Michael Griffith announced that the high school building would shut down on Saturday to change a transformer. New Stages participants, with their last performances scheduled for Saturday night, immediately responded.

Theater arts department chair James Thornton and playwriting instructor Christine McBurney made quick calls to obtain a new stage at the Unitarian Church in Cleveland Heights. Parents from the box office called all ticket-holders, and signs were posted on the high school doors to note the change. Participants packed their equipment late Friday night and returned Saturday afternoon to transport their materials to the church.

"The general consensus between people was, 'Well, we have to do it,' so we just did it calmly," junior actor Alex Goggins said.

Though some music effects were not possible in the new location, Thornton praised students for their maturity in dealing with the situation. "It wasn't easy," he said. "The crew had to take down all the lights and hang new ones in less than an hour."

Sophomore New Stages actor Nadav Laor went as far as to say that the change was actually positive.

"It was such an amazing operation," he said. "Everyone just pitched in."

the News Desk

Day of Silence Planned

•The Gay/Straight Alliance is organizing participation in the Day of Silence Project, a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Participating students, with permission from their teachers, will not speak during school April 9. The event was created in 1996 by students from the University of Virginia.

High school secretary passes away

• Shaker Heights High School Adminstrative Secretary Rose Blaser passed away after a long battle with cancer. Many students knew Blaser from her work as an Advanced Placement Exam coordinator. She worked at Shaker for 24 years. "I worked with Rose for 23 years. I was surprised she passed away, although she had been sick for so long. We always wondered how she went on everyday with the illness that she had," secretary Alice Kutil said.

Beachwood to introduce block scheduling

•The Beachwood Board of Education has decided to change to a block schedule in 2004. Under the plan, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, students would attend seven, 45-minute classes and a 30-minute lunch period. On Wednesdays, students would have three, 85-minute classes and on Thursdays four, 85-minute classes. Forty-minute lunch periods would be held on these two days. Proponents of block scheduling believe that extended class sessions allow for instruction that emphasizes deeper understanding, which results in better retention.

Kyan Safavi

IF TWO KIDS THROW PUNCHES... ...and no one's watching...

"If someone gets in your face, that's fighting words to me."
sophomore
Jessica Davis

"It's entertainment. If somebody gets their butt whupped, it's funny."
sophomore
Tracy Woolley

" 'Cause in a fight, man . . . you've got every aspect of an action movie."
senior
Paul Boyd

Fifty-nine percent of students say they run toward a fight.
Shakerite Poll

Photo illustration by Will Bostwick

By Anna Hutt
COPY EDITOR

There's only one word that halts students mid-step in the hallway, turns them around and compels them frantically toward the source of the shout. And it's not "Fire."

But at the call of "FIGHT!" a remarkable phenomenon occurs in Shaker hallways. The entire school seems to drop everything and rush to the epicenter of activity—not to participate; just to watch. Within seconds, a heckling mob forms around two struggling students, leaving the other hallways empty and silent. Welcome to hallway fighting, the newest spectator sport at Shaker Heights High School.

"A fight, man, it's like a movie," said senior Paul Boyd, who appreciates hallway fights for their drama, suspense and climax. "You've got every aspect of an action movie."

Fights are often viewed solely as entertainment, according to sophomore Tracey Woolley. "If someone gets their butt whupped, it's funny," she said.

Sophomore Liz Griffith agreed that people watch fights for the thrill factor, perhaps for lack of better sources of amusement. "I think it's just all of the commotion," she said. "It's like a break in my day."

Sheer excitement may attract students to a fight, said psychology teacher Sally Hagstrand. "We do have a curiosity," she said. "We want to be aroused."

Hagstrand explained that this excitement mentality was exemplified in a situation years ago when a fire broke out at the Mayfield Country Club. Car-drivers followed fire trucks toward the club, excited by the possibility of witnessing disaster. So many cars pulled into the driveway after the fire truck that when a second emergency vehicle arrived a few minutes later, it couldn't reach the building.

"Some people seek out the dangerous aspect..." Hagstrand said. "They crave increased stimulation."

According to criminology teacher Buddy Longo, the simple fact that something is out of the ordinary attracts people to fights and other crime scenes.

Apart from excitement, the prestige of winning a fight may be a factor. Historically, violence has been glorified in many cultures. Dueling was commonly used as a way to achieve honor in medieval Europe.

In an article in the American Psychologist Magazine, titled "Cultural-Societal Roots of Violence," Ervin Staub said that ethnic groups in countries such as the former Yugoslavia viewed blood feuds as heroic rituals until recently.

Similarly, fighting is an honor struggle in a high school mind. Sophomore Jessica Davis said male students fight "to show who's better, who's stronger." Boyd agreed that egos are the causes of most fights between boys.

Common opinions maintained that girls, on the other hand, fight for more emotional reasons. "Girls are always fighting over boys," Boyd said.

Woolley agreed. "Girls fight for dumb stuff," she said, citing clothes, boys and "he said-she said" issues as examples.

Another explanation for the follow-the-blood phenomenon is what Hagstrand calls "mob behavior." If everyone else seems to be running to a fight, "I don't want to be the odd man out," Hagstrand said. "Alone, you wouldn't necessarily go watch this. But group behavior is very different from individual behavior."

Students experience a diffusion of responsibility and assume that because they are in a crowd, nothing that happens is a result of their individual actions.

"You don't see yourself as a person," Hagstrand said. "You become more part of a group." Morality drops a notch when an individual feels that he can hide in a group. "We judge ourselves based on how other people are reacting," she said.

But history tells us that this mentality is no excuse. Longo said that onlookers of a bar rape in New England were prosecuted for encouraging the crime and failing to call police.

A Shakerite phone poll of 94 students found that while 59 percent said they personally ran toward fights to watch, 96 percent said that other students did. Sophomore Michael Winlock felt that this behavior was inappropriate.

"That's not right," he said. "If two people are about to fight, just let them fight about the reason they were about to fight for."

In the words of a fighter

By Jennifer Broadbent
MANAGING EDITOR

What turns a habitual observer into a fighter? Sophomore Desiree Floyd shares the story of her fight last December.

Q Were you planning on getting in a fight?

A I wasn't thinking about getting mad until she got an attitude. She called me a bitch and then I hit her about three times. I didn't think about it; it just happened real quick . . . it was just a reflex. When I hit her she just stood there while I got my hits in.

Q What about the onlookers?

A I heard people yelling and saying stuff behind me, saying, 'Beat her ---!' I think that the audience influences you because I don't want them to think, 'She can't fight, she's jake.' I want to keep my reputation up. But I think I would have hit her even if people weren't around. She pissed me off, and I'd had a bad day anyways.

Q Were you worried about punishment?

A I knew from the first time I hit her that I was going to get *suspended, so I might as well hit her again . . .* . But afterwards I was thinking, 'I can't believe that just happened.'

Q Have you been in a fight since then?

A I got into one argument but it wasn't worth fighting over. I just didn't want to get into it. I could say stuff to her, but I walked away. A tiny bit of me was mad that I walked away. It kind of made me seem like I just let her say that, but I'm glad it didn't turn into something bigger.

... is it still a fight?

Woolley viewed the question more realistically. "Who's not gonna watch a fight?" she said. "It's not about being appropriate; everyone watches it."

Students should be aware of legal consequences before joining a crowd to cheer on a fight. Shaker Heights Police Chief Walter Ugrinic said that people who encourage a fight and refuse to disperse could be prosecuted for disorderly conduct, inducing panic or disturbing the peace.

"Instigating fights, that's not cool," Boyd said. "Just for the simple fact that you could get caught up in it."

Contributed to by Matt Seidner

Number of days since September 11, 2001: 562

Ratio of Saddam references to God references in Bush's 2003 State of the Union Address: 5.5:1

State of the Union Address transcript at www.whitehouse.gov

Times Bush mentioned Osama bin Laden: 0

Percentage of Amercans who think Saddam is personally responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks: 42

"New York Times" and CBS poll

Dear Doris

By Becca Bonthius
and Rick Jennings
OPINION EDITORS

Dear Doris,

I'm betting my car, my parents' house, my stereo, my little sister and $25 on the "March Madness" NCAA tournament. Obviously, I have a lot riding on my predictions. I'm going with Kentucky, but I can't be sure. Do you have any tips for the casual, if compulsive, college basketball gambler?

Losing my Shirt

Dear Losing,

I'm no connoisseur of college athletics, but I think I can help you out. I've always heard good things about Harvard and Yale universities, so they must have excellent teams. Don't forget Princeton and Brown, other fine Ivy League institutions. I'm sure you'll have a winner among those four.

Dear Doris,

I can't stand my classes anymore. It's horrible; I hate it. All I can do is look out the window wistfully. I've been wearing a straw hat and surfing shorts for a month. I want to get out of here. My parents and teachers are mad because I've been watching "Endless Summer II" instead doing my Calculus homework. How can I stay focused on my work when all I want to do is take the first flight to Cancun?

Cabin Feverish

Dear Feverish,

Sometimes it's hard to concentrate when warm weather and free time are just around the corner. So I'll recommend a weekend trip to Solon. Being a few miles closer to the equator than Shaker, Solon might be slightly warmer, so bring your swimsuit! This exotic location boasts a Dunkin' Donuts, two vacuum cleaner stores, and something called the Spaghetti Company. Best of all, a trip to Solon from Shaker Heights only takes 15 minutes. So you'll be back in time to do your homework. Bon Voyage!

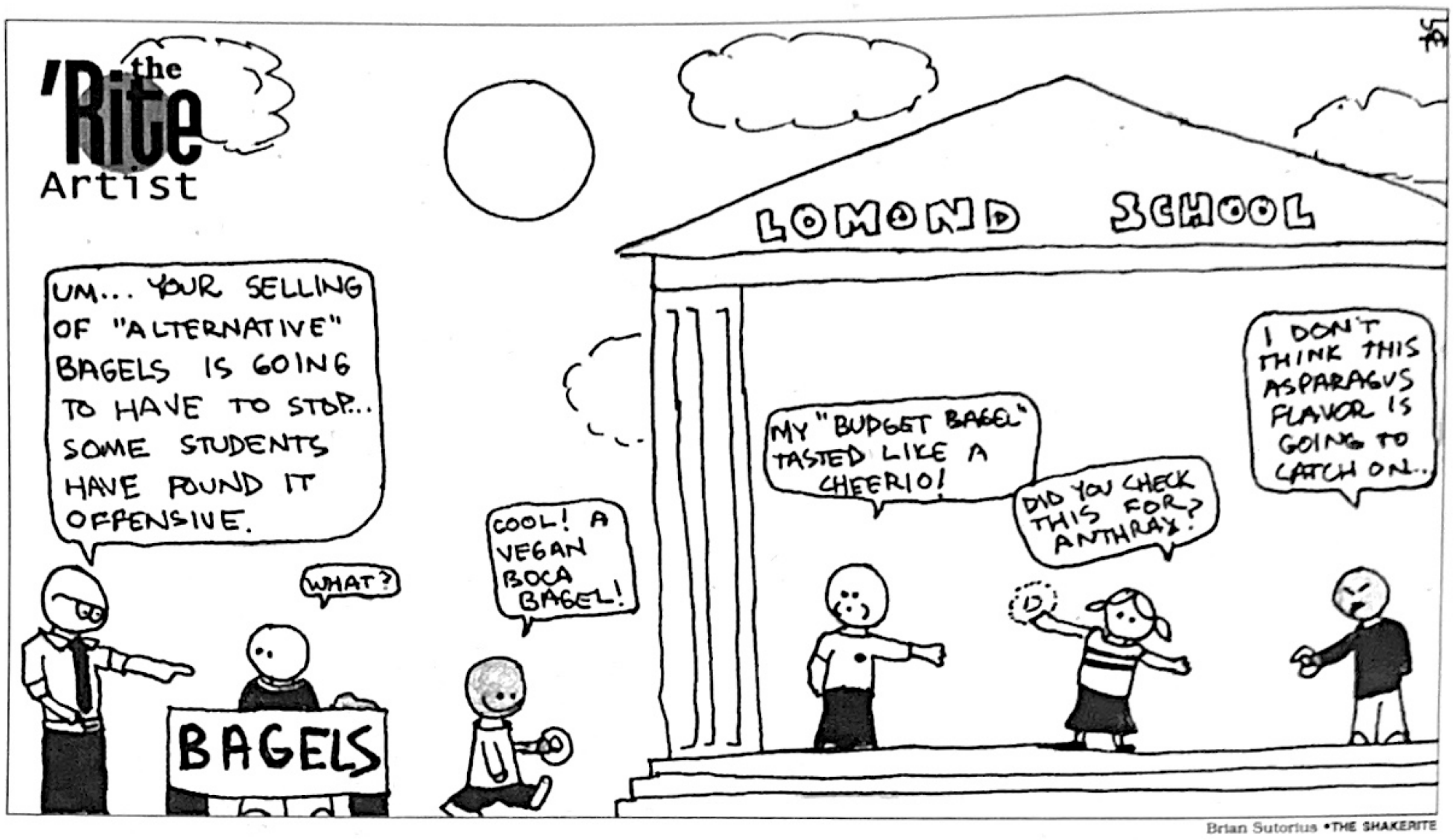
Dear Doris,

I was so tired from studying for my history and English tests that I slept in until 9:50 on the second day of late-start schedule, so I didn't get to school until 10:30. Luckily, school didn't start until then, even though I thought it started at 10. But then I heard that we had class meetings for half an hour. Did I miss anything?

Unenlightened

Dear Unenlightened,

When you slack off and skip school, you miss out. But here's a breakdown of what the class meetings covered while sophomores finished the Ohio Graduation Test. Seniors saw a helpful demonstration by Dr. Glazer on how to put on a cap and gown. The school asked juniors and freshmen their opinions with an exhaustive poll that was not collected, so students have a chance to hold onto it and reflect. I hope now you realize that informative class meetings like the ones last week are more important than catching some extra ZZZs.


the 'Rite Artist
LOMOND SCHOOL
UM... YOUR SELLING OF "ALTERNATIVE" BAGELS IS GOING TO HAVE TO STOP... SOME STUDENTS HAVE FOUND IT OFFENSIVE.
WHAT?
BAGELS
COOL! A VEGAN BOCA BAGEL!
MY "BUDGET BAGEL" TASTED LIKE A CHEERIO!
DID YOU CHECK THIS FOR ANTHRAX?
I DON'T THINK THIS ASPARAGUS FLAVOR IS GOING TO CATCH ON...

Brian Sutorius •THE SHAKERITE

Vote for levy May 6

the 'Rite Idea

On May 6 Shaker Heights residents should vote to increase their property taxes because they have no viable alternative. If the levy fails, it will be put up for vote after vote after vote until it passes. Moreover, if it doesn't pass this year, the district will probably have to cut essential services. Since property taxes will almost certainly increase whether residents vote for the levy in May or not, they might as well vote for the levy now to ensure that the schools don't have to make budget cuts.

Unfortunately, the district has not been specific as to what services it would cut if the levy were to fail repeatedly. Superintendent Mark Freeman states that doing so would amount to threatening voters. Therefore, residents and this editorial board are unable to gauge how drastic the effects of levy failures would be on the student body. We can only guess that the 5.3 percent decrease in expenditures that the district anticipates imposing in 2003-2004 would hurt the quality of education. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Shaker Heights residents must continue to invest in their schools. Schools are a city's most important asset.

Due to Ohio House Bill 920, property taxes remain virtually the same every year, even when property values increase. Because district expenses rise every year due to health costs and teacher salaries, without more income school systems ultimately face deficits. In order to raise more money, districts therefore have to ask residents to vote for levies. Although House Bill 920 was created to protect citizens from unvoted tax increases, the law has become a nuisance. Districts should be able to raise more tax revenue when property values increase. The law must be revised.

At present an individual pays $2,833 in taxes on the value of a $100,000 house in Shaker. It may seem preposterous that anyone should have to pay more. However, Shaker Heights residents must continue to invest in their schools. Schools are a city's most important asset. Once a district has dedicated itself to maintaining high standards, it must maintain them.

the Top Ten

AMERICAN FOODS RENAMED BY FRANCE

10 Jingoism chili

9 Tanker Spill salmon

8 Oil-Hungry Yankee fried chicken

7 Greedy Imperialist baked beans

6 Preemptive Strike clam chowder

5 Global Aggressor cheese

4 Backward Foreign Policy punch

3 Ignorant Cowboy toast

2 Couldn't Do It Right the First Time lobster

1 Great Satan cheese steak

second tick-offs

Bagel buyers: get in line!

Hey, bagel customers. Remember back in kindergarten when they taught us how to stand patiently in line? You can't? No kidding! We line up for a reason -- to maintain order. It's a shame that high schoolers needing their cinnamon fix have no grasp of this.

Rick Jennings

Flier fiasco

On too many hallway walls, I find war propaganda posted, sometimes covering posters for real clubs and activities. I wish more people would have some kind of respect for Project Support's messages or New Stages' fliers — extracurriculars that actually produce positive, inclusive experiences.

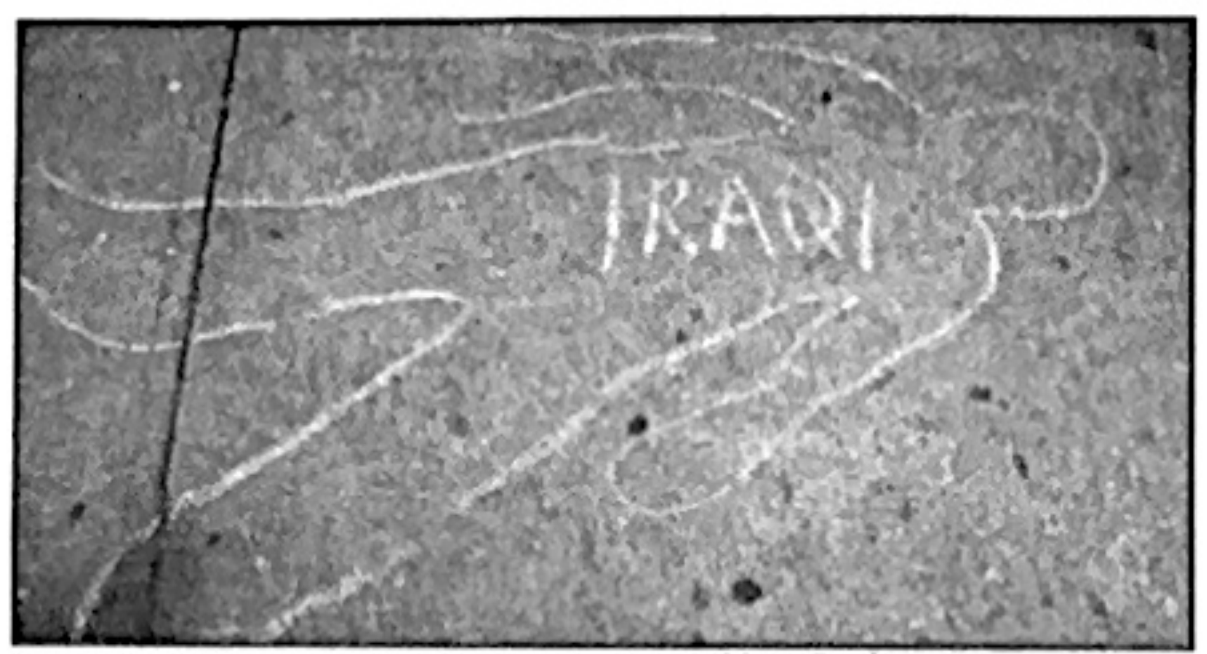
Betty Elee

Too close for comfort

Why do parents need to drop their kids off and pick them up five feet from the auditorium door? They're backing up into the students who are just trying to get to class. High schoolers are perfectly capable of walking the 20 feet from the driveway to the door.

Margie Glick and Jessica Miller

DISSENTING DISPLAY



Matt Seidner•THE SHAKERITE

ON MARCH 18, two students took advantage of the late start to draw chalk outlines representing Iraqi casualties on the sidewalks around the high school. The students, freshmen George Chupek and Dinah Lewis, are part of the anti-war group Not In Our Name.

"We ran out of chalk. We tried to make it around the school," said Lewis, who thought they drew at least 14 outlines.

"I hope people see them and see that civilians are getting hurt, not just the military," said Chupek.

Minority views smothered in school

BY DAN BARACH
STAFF REPORTER

Our school is one that has long prided itself on its liberal attitude. Today, this stands out in the near total unity of faculty and student body in opposing the war on Iraq. What disappoints me, though, is that many here seem to be turning a blind eye to one of the biggest components of liberalism: Feeling free to have a difference in opinion. In our school, there is such a high concentration of anti-war opinion that those with opposing viewpoints feel smothered. I find myself in a unique position here because I am pro-war but otherwise quite liberal.

A great complaint on the political battlefield has been the conservatives' reluctance to discuss points of view in opposition to their own. Are we as liberals any different, then, if we speak only of the great injustices of the war and not of its possible benefits? One of the great goals of education is training the mind to see both sides of an argument; not necessarily to agree with both, but to at least see both. It is easy to discuss issues only with those who share your opinion. More intellectual stimulation occurs when you discuss both sides of an issue.

> There must be time taken to think freely...

In the past few months, almost all I have heard in our school regarding Iraq is the danger of terrorist attacks at home, the tragedy of casualties on both sides, the oil conspiracy theory and, last but not least, the most fashionable thing a liberal can discuss today: Bush's idiocy. What upsets me is that no one has taken time to discuss Saddam Hussein's past aggression toward Iran and Kuwait, as well as his attempted invasion of Saudi Arabia just before the first Gulf War. There must be time taken to think freely, and by that I mean at least examining both sides of the issue and accepting that others have different views. If we as students fail to do this, then we are dealing in the same moral absolutism as our (cough) Fearless Leader. That is: People love to condemn Bush for handling the world in black and white, but when we think in this manner we are guilty of the same thing.

Hall policy needs revisions

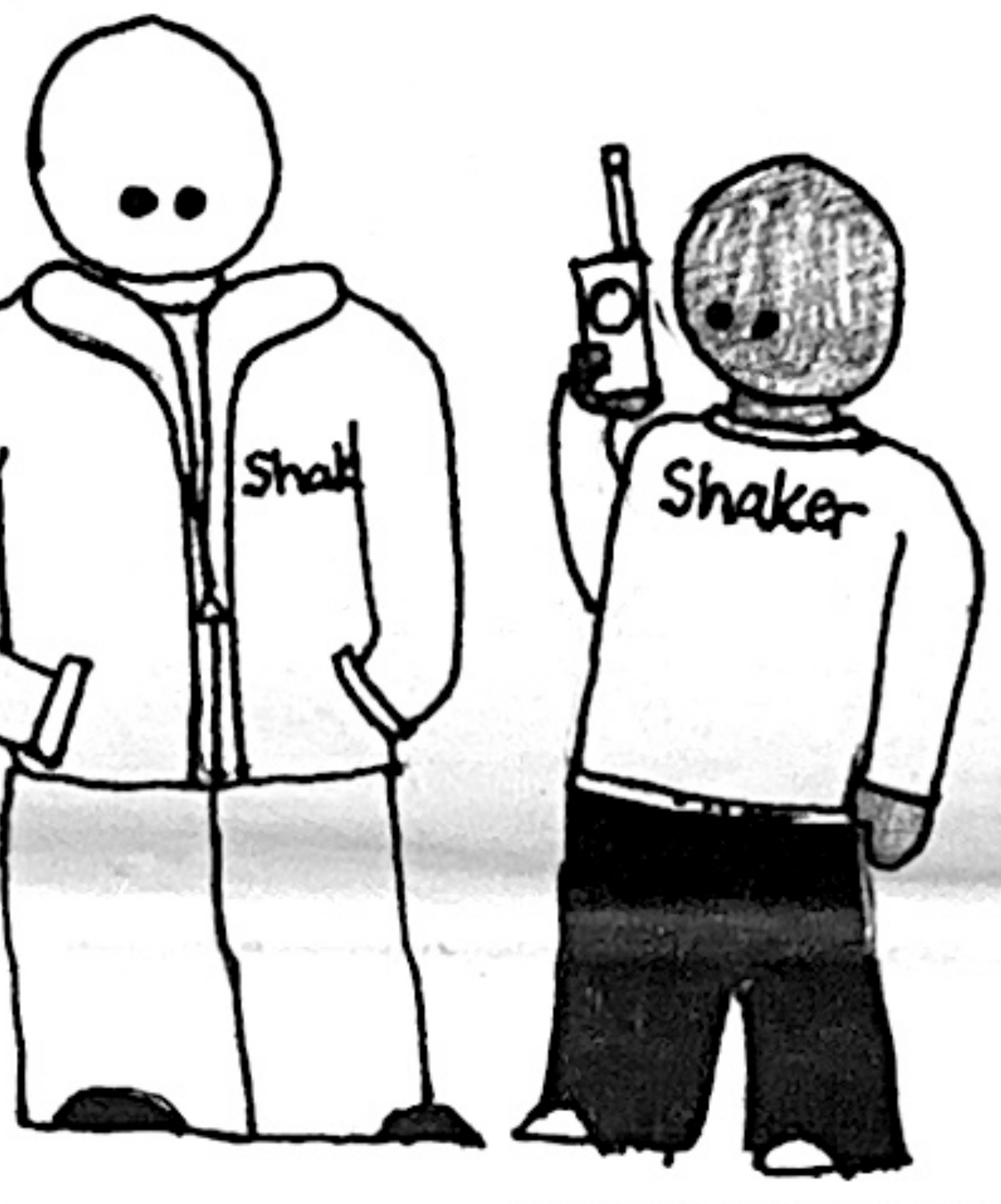
BY MATT SEIDNER
BUSINESS MANAGER

It begins like any good spy movie. The hero is trying to sneak past dozens of faceless minions to open a safe and steal the top-secret files within. Only this isn't a movie; it's an everyday occurrence for Shaker students sneaking by a dozen security guards in an attempt to open their lockers during class.

I would have no problem with this if all the students stopped by security guards were noisy and disruptive, but this is not the case. If students are headed for their destinations quickly and quietly, why should they be stopped? Responsible students aren't the problem; irresponsible ones need addressing.

This brings a larger issue to the table: are security guards overzealous in their pursuit of a safe and educational school environment? I, for one, think the answer is yes.

Recently, the school has begun to enforce existing hall traffic rules by renewing a commitment to check for hall passes, even for trips as mundane as going to the drinking fountain. It could be said that this is even more disruptive than the occasional noisy student. Suppose a student simply needs to go to the restroom. Now a teacher has to write a hall pass, which delays class. It would be much easier to just allow the student to leave class and proceed to his destination. If security guards see a student loitering or becoming a disturbance, they should confront the student then and only then.

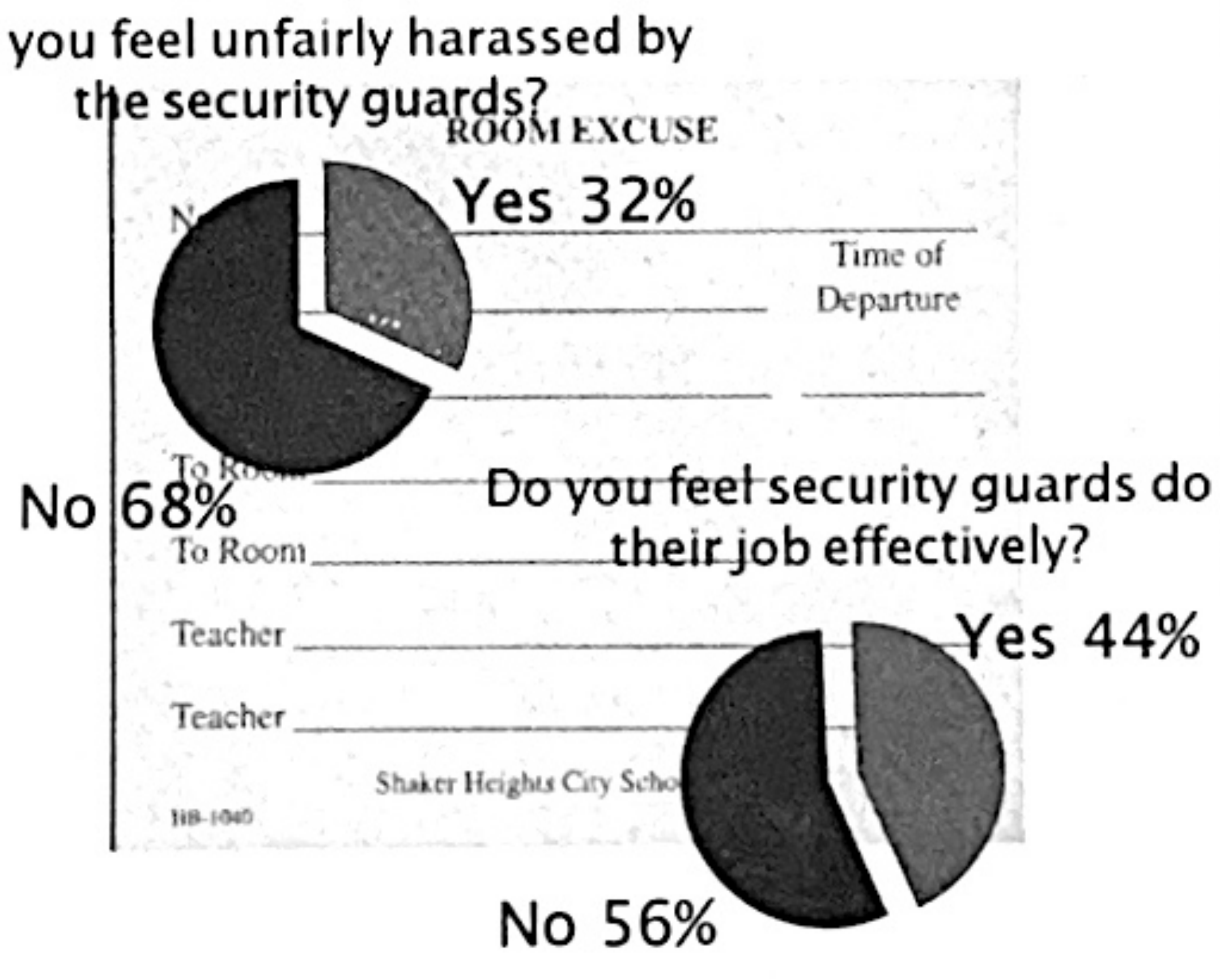


Brian Sutorius•THE SHAKERITE

Apparently, teacher complaints about hallway disruptions prompted the recent upgrade in security activity. In my experience, simply closing the door is an acceptable alternative. Teachers must remember that security guards can also be part of the disruption. By fraternizing during class time, yelling at deviant students and constantly checking for hallway passes, guards can often cause disruptions themselves.

I wholeheartedly agree with Principal Michael Griffith that the school should be a safe and productive place, and I feel that decisions such as the removal of the controversial hat policy are a step in the right direction. But the hall pass policy still needs modification. Because we have an open campus policy, reprimanding us for being in the hallways is a contradictory practice.

Stay tuned to the school policy channel to see whether or not the student will succeed in his mission to get to his locker before the end of class. It's all up to the administration now.



Congress hits where it matters – junk food

BY ANDY CAMERON
STAFF REPORTER

Every era of history is marked by one great act of defiance. And this time, we must put our foot down and stamp out the one thing that has been undermining our country's greatness —french fries.

Sadly, those giant sissies, the French, have been pecking away at the great American institution of democracy with their insidiously clever naming of foods. For too long, they have stood against this great nation in our valiant, righteous battle against the murderous devils in Iraq. But we have caught on to their international subterfuge.

Our brave heroes in Congress have tired of this sabotage by snotty cheese eaters and have taken a bold step in the right direction. They put aside inconsequential matters such as the enormous national debt and the looming demise of Social Security and instead marched down the congressional lunchroom to personally rename America's biggest food group. French fries are now glorious, patriotic freedom fries!

> You'll eat Liberty waffles and Unfettered bacon with Acceptance coffee.

Not to question our infallible representatives (led in this crusade by Ohio's own Bob Ney), but why should we stop there? Our fearless leader, President Bush, has declared that if you're not with us, you're against us. So I say we should take what he said to heart and push it all the way! No longer will you eat Belgian waffles with Canadian bacon and wash them down with Irish coffee. You'll eat Liberty waffles and Unfettered bacon with Acceptance coffee. Never again will any true-blooded American eat German chocolate cake while watching Japanimation. Unchained chocolate cake and Nationalismamation for all! Yes, everything named after foreign peoples must change. That squinty guy from "Third Rock from the Sun" is now Freedom Stewart!

In the admirable tradition of form Senator Joseph McCarthy, we must fight on, stamping out foreign evils everywhere they lurk. Our brave boys will keep fighting the terrorists in Iraq and we'll keep up on the home front! God Bless America, and God Bless legislators who can't prioritize!

Letters to the editor

War resolution is a waste of city's time

The writer is 11 years-old and a sixth grader at Woodbury Elementary school.

To the editor:

Your article about the Shaker Heights' City Council decision to officially oppose war in Iraq deeply disturbed me for many reasons. This left-wing time waster is just that – a waste.

The property taxes per $100,000 valuation in Shaker Heights are the highest of any city in Northeast Ohio. To add insult to injury, the school district is running a levy on the ballot in May that will increase further the property tax rate. The elitist liberals that have dominated, currently dominate and, for the foreseeable future, will dominate the council, have prevented many big businesses from basing themselves in Shaker. We do boast Wendy's, BP and Office Max, but a lot more could be done – and I am not talking about bed and breakfasts next door to my house! The city council fought McDonald's when it wanted to come here, and it bogged down Shaker Towne Centre reconstruction plans that would have helped take the tax burden off the residents of Shaker Heights. But, of course, any American knows that that would require government to govern with simplicity, a task at which it is not adept. So, instead, we pass resolutions that have nothing to do with the City of Shaker Heights, and are pretty much a waste of the trees cut down so they could write it.

My point here is relatively simple: If the Shaker Heights City Council would spend more time taking the tax burden off its grossly overtaxed citizens by luring businesses here, rather than meddling in international affairs that they have nothing to do with, it would be infinitely more helpful to the citizens they are paid to represent.

Michael Cowett

Censorship of tick-off inappropriate

To the editor:

Ok, I understand the responsibilities of an editor of the Shakerite, but however, hypocrisy is not one of them. In a previous "10 second tick-off," I referred to President George W. Bush as "retarded." Yes, it was derogatory and normally I'd understand why I was censored, however, the word "nigga" was in another article, untouched and way more derogatory than "retarded." I thought that we were past dropping the n-bomb kiddies. Picking and choosing is ok, but you picked the wrong one, sonny. What happened to freedom of speech? Don't censor me unless I give my consent! I submit something for print the way I intended it to be read, not how the editor wants it to sound. And why did you write about someone's scar instead of his triumph?

Brian Cherchiglia,
junior

Editors' response:

The use of the word "retarded" in an editorial demonstrates behavior expected in a fifth-grade hallway, not a high school publication. To be honest, we removed that term from Mr. Cherchiglia's piece to save him the embarrassment that would ensue if his name were attached to the slur. As our policy clearly states, we reserve the right to reject or edit any letter to the editor.

Last month's Top 10, which was anonymous, was compiled to show the insensitivity and ignorance of rules exhibited by countless students during the carnation sale every year. We edited the cards as little as possible to fully illustrate the absurdity of some messages.

Any walk down the hall of the high school quickly reveals that we as a school are definitely *not* "past dropping the n-bomb," or any other derogatory term, including the language used in Mr. Cherchiglia's editorial. This was the point of the Top 10 list.

BB & RJ

WE WANT *YOU* TO WRITE FOR OPINION!

Take issue with the Shakerite? Write a letter to the editor or a Guest 'Rite. Letters must not exceed 200 words, Guest 'Rites 350. Submit both to room 229. Include name and phone number.

Babes in TV LAND

BUFFY SUMMERS

OCCUPATION: A Vampire Slayer

MEN: As an intense character, Buffy has highly involved relationships. Emotions reign supreme in her seemingly out of (or under) this world choice of men.

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Because Buffy has no living immediate family except her sister, she relies on her friends for family like support. She is loyal and reliable, and always has room in her busy schedule to talk to a friend.

STYLE: It seems that even with leather pants and a halter-top, Buffy can kick mega vampire keester.

Carrie Bradshaw

OCCUPATION: New York Times sex columnist, published author

MEN: Carrie doesn't like giving her heart away very easily, but she has been known to be somewhat promiscuous. When a guy hits Carrie hard, she often has trouble getting over him, and has been known to go back for more.

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Carrie's friends are her family. She keeps few secrets from her three best friends, and they always come first in a time of crisis. Although men have come and gone, Carrie always stays true to her best friends.

STYLE: Only designer clothes strike this girl's fancy. A true New Yorker, she is never too broke for new Jimmy Choo shoes.

Sydney Bristow

OCCUPATION: A former double agent of the CIA and SD-6, not employed fully by the CIA

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Sydney's trust issues stem from her family relations, as her mother betrayed both she and her father in many ways. Her relationship with her father, though sometimes rocky, has come full circle and she now has both trust and respect for him.

MEN: Sydney's work inhibits her from having a normal relationship, and rust is her biggest issue. She has also had to deal with the brutal murder of her fiancee. She is currently dating her handler at the CIA, Michael Vaughen.

STYLE: Sydney always tries to look very professional, but sometimes her job calls for things a little more revealing than her preferred dark leather pants suit.

Compiled by Abby Hester

If I only had a brain: female portrayals fall victim to ratings race

By Aviva Ariel
STAFF REPORTER

When rapper Lil' Kim walks onto the red carpet wearing a leather cat suit that covers little but the bare essentials, drooling boys may concentrate only on her physical gifts. The artist, notorious for her sass and sex appeal, illuminated TV screens during the MTV Music Awards 2001, perpetuating detrimental images to teenager's perceptions of women, according to a Shakerite poll.

The poll found 75 percent of students believe such TV images negatively impact students' perception of women.

Strickland thinks that female celebrities dress provocatively to gain attention. "Lil' Kim's image is sex related," said the sophomore, "but I also like Shakira, who is not dirty." He believes shocking dress is only part of female stars' appeal.

"She should be nice, confident and friendly," Strickland said, "like a normal, everyday girl."

Comedy Central's "The Man Show," described by its own website as "a half-hour of joyous chauvinism," is popular among teenage boys. The man-fun includes women jumping on trampolines and the Juggy Girls, who frequent the show.

"It's cool about the dancers because they add to the show," said Brett Strickland, a sophomore who watches "The Man Show" for the jokes. "But it's a problem to have that image of girls on trampolines."

When Stephanie Goode sees Pamela Anderson hanging out of her bikini top, images of girls selling themselves on street corners cross her mind. According to the senior, teenage girls like respectable images.

"The most important qualities are their class about themselves and values," said Goode, who thinks fashion trends are important but so is leaving something to the imagination. "She must be home based, down to earth, not stuck up and give credit to her family."

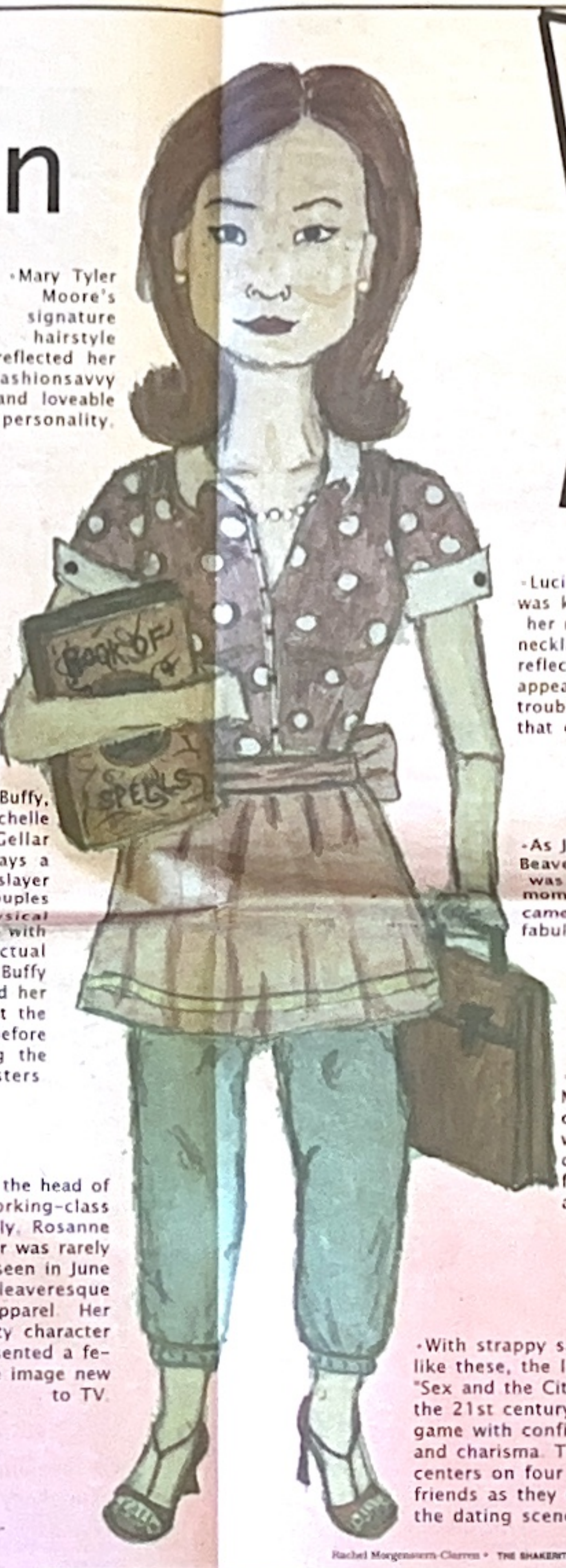
Junior Rachel Smith likes to see intelligent and respectful women in the media. "Susan Sarandon is good because she protests for good causes," said Smith. "Venus and Serena Williams are good because they are supportive of each other."

Smith realizes guys enjoy looking at women on TV programs similar to "The Man Show." "It is fun for them because other shows are too emotional for them and they can't handle it," she said. Smith values other qualities in female stars. "Girls want to see positive role models doing good things."

In an email interview, Linda Mizejewski, a professor at Ohio State University, said she believes the developmental gap between guys and girls in high school creates the differences in preferences of female portrayals in media. "Teenage girls are emotionally more mature and looking for role models," said Mizejewski, chair of OSU's Department of Women's Studies. "Teenage boys are still discovering their sexuality and are reacting to those basic stimuli."

Mizejewski understands that the media tries to profit off guys' desires for exploitative images. The professor thinks boys are taught from a very young age that men are superior to women. It is a common fact in American culture that women can wear men's clothes, but men can't wear women's clothes. "A woman in a tailored pantsuit is cool because she's moving up, or imitating male style," said Mizejewski, the author of "Ziegfeld Girl: Image and Icon in Culture and Cinéma," "but a man in a skirt is comic because it is a step 'down.'" She believes that this double standard is proof that mainstream culture - and media - are sexist.

According to Media Awareness Network's The Economics of Gender Stereotyping website, an American girl will watch 5,000 hours of TV and 80,000 ads before she even goes to Kindergarten and commercials are one of the major offenders. Commercials show 55% of boys building, fixing things, or fighting. 77% of girls are laughing, talking or watching others. Boys are shown out of the house 85% of the time, but girls are 50% in the house. The Media Awareness Network believes the exploitation of females on TV is due to advertisers' desire to appeal to the 18-34-year-old male demographic. Major TV stations cater towards male preferences. The site includes a statement from UPN President Dean Valentine: "The only people that advertisers want are 28-year-old male millionaires."



•Mary Tyler Moore's signature hairstyle reflected her fashionsavvy and loveable personality.

•As Buffy, Sarah Michelle Gellar portrays a vampire slayer who couples physical prowess with intellectual pursuit. Buffy and her friends hit the books before hitting the monsters.

•As the head of a working-class family, Rosanne Barr was rarely seen in June Cleaveresque apparel. Her gritty character presented a female image new to TV.

•Lucille Ball from "I Love Lucy" was known for more than her red hair. Her pearl necklace and starched dresses reflected her well-kept appearance despite all the troublemaking and housekeeping that occupied her days.

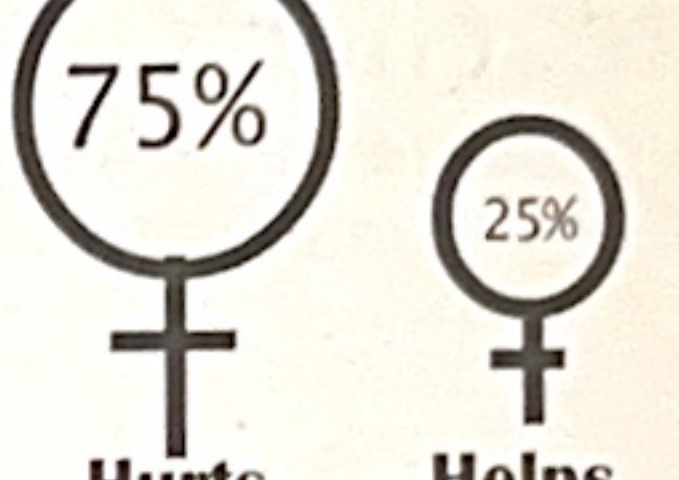
•As June Cleaver on "Leave it to Beaver," Barbara Billingsley was the typical stay-at-home mom of the 1950s. When Ward came home from work, June looked fabulous and had dinner ready.

•Calista Flockhart of "Ally McBeal" played a career-motivated lawyer whose fluctuating love life drew criticism for portraying women as too dependent.

•With strappy sandals like these, the ladies of "Sex and the City" top the 21st century fashion game with confidence and charisma. The show centers on four stylish friends as they conquer the dating scene.

Rachel Morgenstern-Clarren • THE SHAKERITE

Q: Do you think the way women are portrayed on TV helps or hurts the way teens perceive women?



Hurts	Helps
75%	25%

Scientific poll of 97 students with a margin of error of +/-10 percent. Journalism II and Shakerite classes telephoned students.

From homemakers to heartbreakers, TV women evolve with changing times

By Katie Glass
STAFF REPORTER

How did June Cleaver ever become Carrie Bradshaw?

It's all about histo, uh, herstory.

With the rise of feminism came an evolution (or devolution, depending who you ask) of the female TV character. Once sequestered in the home as Ward and Beaver's aproned mother, women on TV are now snarky sex columnists and CIA agents.

A trip through TV land over the last 50 years starts with female TV characters reflecting the American ideal - housewives who seemingly spent their days preparing dinner and making themselves beautiful in anticipation of their husbands' return. However, sometime between the debut of The Pill in 1960 and the 1972 Roe V. Wade decision, women on TV changed.

In 1966, the first single-woman sitcom, "That Girl," featured Marlo Thomas as a fashionable young woman who moved out of her parents' home before getting married - a revolutionary portrayal.

"It was comical and very entertaining. From the standpoint of a woman it was surreal," Marketing Education teacher Mark Leimsieder said.

During the seventies, the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" debuted at the peak of the women's movement. The show portrayed a 30-year-old, single and independent woman, working for a Minneapolis news show. Mary confronted women's issues such as equal rights and sex without marriage and questioned why she earned less than her male counterparts. Her boss told her that it was because he had a family to care for. Mary was viewed as a pioneer of the women's movement, even though she was never burned a bra.

"As I recall, it was more entertainment and occasionally she was assertive, but she was cute," English teacher Ruth Blair said.

During the same era, "Charlie's Angels" premiered in 1976. This series was a landmark in itself, being the first to portray physically strong women. It also began the era of what People Magazine calls "Jiggle TV", which says that women can have sex appeal while saving the world. "Charlie's Angels" is the original "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Dark Angel" and "Alias." There was a time when the good guy was battling the bad guy in order to win the young, sweet girl to one side. Now, however, sweet girls were in the spotlight.

According to librarian Patti Lawrence, "'Charlie's Angels' was the hairdo, the outfits and the giggles. It had nothing to do with real women."

"Three's Company," which aired from1977 through 1984, revolved around the ever-growing openness and equality among men and women. The sitcom was based on the antics of coed roommates. According to Suzanne Somers, the trio had to pretend that the male roommate was gay. "It was the only way the network could justify the living arrangement, [the show] was pretty racy stuff for the time."

However, the most drastic changes in the portrayal of strong females on the small screen came with the eighties. When "Murphy Brown" aired in 1988, TV viewers were introduced to Murphy Brown, a feisty journalist who was a "very flawed human being," according to People Magazine.

"What you had to like about 'Murphy Brown' was that she was hard-edged, she had that crusty side that Mary Tyler Moore didn't quite have," history teacher Tim Mitchell said.

"I believe characters like Murphy Brown best represent women because they are down-to-earth type and get to the point, just as many of the women today do," junior Steve Kawalek said.

In the fourth season, Murphy gave birth to a baby boy and decided to raise him alone, setting off a national debate on the meaning of family.

"By the fourth season they tried to soften her edges, but I liked her when she was crusty," Mitchell said.

As the nineties began, post-feminist television commenced. In "Living Single," which aired in 1993, the four female friends were "bodacious and bold." For the well-known series "Friends," which debuted in 1994, the TV pals function as a family. Each female character is not defined by men. In the 1998 sitcom "Will & Grace", the issue of homosexuality comes into the playing field. As the female best friend, Grace is seen as "kind of post feminist; she's neurotic, highly intelligent, funny, and fun," according to co-creator David Kohan.

Some critics feel that women's roles on television have gone backward in time. In 1997, "Ally McBeal" debuted. She seems to exemplify conflicts of a career women balancing the social, professional and psychological aspects of her life.

But one critic, Susan Isaacs, author of "Brave Dames and Wimpettes" sees several flaws in McBeal's portrayal. "On television, Ally McBeal is a litigator far longer on legs than brains. McBeal proves you can send the girl to college, but not even seven years of higher education can stay her from doing what comes naturally - trying to catch a man."

Sophomore Lindsay Holloway agrees with Isaacs. "Producers play on stereotypes, so people begin to believe what they see on TV," she said.

> Once sequestered in the home as Ward and Beaver's aproned mother, women on TV are now snarky sex columnists and CIA agents.

TV programming needs a splash of color

Although minority women certainly have greater visibility on TV today than in the past, they are still noticeably underrepresented, or rather, misrepresented.

"I think that a black woman would be portrayed as a woman that speaks Ebonics, as if she couldn't speak with more intelligence," said senior Jessica Owens. "With black women, they're always either extremely stupid, naive or unruly."

Sophomore Shannon Ashford agrees. "I think black females are represented as very opinionated and outspoken . . . some would even see them as 'bitches,'" she said.

Sally Streeland, deputy director of the National Commission on Working Women, believes that the portrayals of minority females on TV are unrealistic. In an article for the Center for Media Literacy, she acknowledges that although the presence of minority women has increased, there are still problems with such exposure because "they do not reflect the diversity of minority women in the real world, nor the realities of living in a white society."

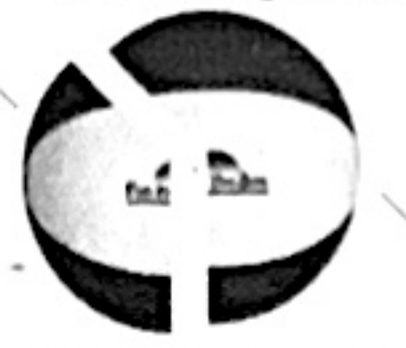
Owens feels that these representations perpetuate stereotypes for black women. "Black women are intelligent, and it is rare that it is shown through all aspects of the show," she said. "They always sneak the loud, stupid stereotype in there somehow." Daphne Maxwell Reid, who starred as Aunt Viv on "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air," now owns New Millennium Studios, the first full-service film studio in Virginia and the first black-owned studio in the country. In an open forum at the University of Virginia School of Law, she emphasized the importance of African-Americans creating and owning the content of black entertainment. "Images for us are very important because they shape people's minds," she said. "We have to take control of making our own images. Shape them the way you want to shape them."

Lauren Gardner

PULSE

The real deal >>>>>>

Are you planning on traveling during spring break?



Scientific poll of 97 students with a margin of error of + / – 10 percent. Shakerite classes telephoned students

- The first celebration of spring break dates back to ancient Greece. The philosopher Socrates proposed a youth festival to mark the end of winter, so that teens could 'rid of urges' built up during the season.
- Spring break festivities were banned in the Middle Ages. Monks felt that the celebration encouraged the spread of paganism.
- Spring break did not gain mainstream acceptance until the 1960s, when baby boomers began to attend college and desired a break from their studies.

Compiled from Tripsmarter.com

Can students excuse a teacher's absence?

• Students attempt to make the grade with long-term substitute teachers

TEACHER FROM PAGE 1

Lamovsky's science classes were thrust into this situation. In November, Lamovsky discovered that he had rheumatoid arthritis and realized he wouldn't be able to return to school anytime soon. In fact, Lamovsky didn't return to his classes until after spring break, after four months of absence.

Any teacher in this situation would have trouble keeping the class on track with the curriculum. Lamovsky's situation was worsened by the fact that this was his first year using the curriculum and didn't have lesson plans to give to the substitute.

At first, a substitute teacher led Lamovsky's physical science classes. However, after Lamovsky realized that he would not be back for most of the year, the school hired a student teacher, Travis Cox, to oversee the class. Cox taught Lamovsky's classes for the remainder of his absence. Sophomore John Hornick said that he had a little bit of trouble with science after Lamovsky left.

"It was a little bit harder than if he had been there the whole year," Hornick said.

When Lamovsky returned, he was surprised to find that the class was not as behind as he thought they might be. "The class was right on schedule, give or take a few pages."

> "The class was right on schedule, give or take a few pages."
>
> Sandy Lamovsky
> science teacher

This year, history teacher Rhona Pessel missed the entire month of February due to gall bladder surgery. Unlike Lamovsky, Pessel knew of her absence in advance and was able to arrange a suitable substitute and lesson plan. Fellow history teacher Timothy Mitchell took the helm of her AP classes, while Dr. Martin Kohn taught her CP class. The experienced substitutes kept her classes in line with the curriculum.

However, Pessel did not expect to miss two more weeks of school due to complications from her surgery.

Jon Stange • THE SHAKERITE

HISTORY TEACHER RHONA Pessel returned in March after a one month absence. Department head Timothy Mitchell and Cameron Buckland filled in for her AP classes during part of her absence, but some students complained that they fell behind.

This again put her students in the unusual situation of getting to know a third teacher because another instructor, Cameron Buckland, had to be brought in for the extended absence. Pessel thinks that the number of different teachers that the students had to deal with in one month caused some distress, but did not set the students back at all. "They went on, but not the way they wanted," Pessel said. She estimates that her class was three days behind by the time she returned.

Junior Erika Leibovitch is a student of Pessel's and felt that although they did not lose any time in the curriculum, the students didn't really learn during Pessel's absence. "There's a big gap in learning that we don't understand. She's trying to make it up, but I don't know if we'll be behind for the AP test," Leibovitch said.

Teachers' absences not only create awkward situations for their students, but also for their department heads, who must search for substitutes.

The field of qualified substitutes is already thin, and only gets thinner when they are needed at the last minute. Thus, many former teachers may find themselves back on the job, or student teachers might find themselves leading a class on their own.

Students are still the ones who are most affected by extended absences. Even if their learning is not impaired, their connection with their regular instructor is. Leibovitch summed this up best when she talked about the most difficult part of Pessel's absence.

"I missed her," she said.

A new declaration of independence

• Students ponder moving out of parents' *home before graduation*

By Lauren Weiss
STAFF REPORTER

For more than a year, junior Carolina Amunategui has wanted to do what most high school students only consider doing but never follow through on: move out of her father's house before graduation.

Brian Sutorius • THE SHAKERITE

"It's an independence thing," she said. "You're accountable for yourself."

Amunategui, who will be 18 in October, is planning on moving into a house with two 21-year-olds, one of whom is a student at Case Western Reserve University, in a couple of months.

"Money will be an issue, but my dad's helping out because I'm a student," she said. "I also work at Tommy's." Amunategui added that it was not hard to convince her dad to let her move out and that one of her future roommates being male was "not an issue."

Minors who live outside of their parents' homes are usually emancipated, which means that their parents no longer have control over their decisions.

Emancipated minors can make their own medical decisions, are free to sue or be sued and must be able to support themselves. However, such minors must still receive parental consent to get married and must attend school.

SHHS psychologist Dr. Karen Tuschman said that, in general, substantial conflict in the parent-child relationship can cause a student to want to move out before graduation.

"Teenagers want to have more control over their lives or, more accurately, their parents to have less control," she said.

However, Tuschman believes that teenagers are always better living with a parent or parent figure. "While external stressors may be gone, internal stressors from conflicts don't simply go away with a change of scenery," she said. "Generally speaking, high school students require consistent parental access, including supervision and love."

No emancipated minors are currently enrolled at the high school, according to Shaker Heights registrar Glenda Moss.

Moss said that usually, emancipated minors are rushing to complete requirements and leave high school. This is the case for Amunategui, who wants to graduate early.

"I want to take classes outside of the high school," Amunategui said.

Guidance counselor Jasmene Corbitt had some suggestions for future emancipated minors at the high school.

"I would recommend a computer science course, because technology is the way of the future," she said. "It's a way for students to get a degree and support themselves." Corbitt also suggested an independent living course.

"It teaches students how to budget and how to set goals and achieve goals."

However, Corbitt stressed that such students should continue to take the standard courses. "Just because you live by yourself doesn't mean you should limit yourself," she said. "You might still be able to go to college."

Senior Katie Sharp intended to move out of her parents' home, but the three other girls that she was going to split an apartment with changed their plans. "It would have been a fun experience," Sharp said.

However, she recognized that the idea did have its downsides.

"There would have been the possibility of disagreements," she said.

Amunategui said that moving out requires one to be highly motivated.

"You need to be good at planning ahead," she said. "This is not an impulsive decision."

Do you think you are capable of living independently of your parents while still attending high school?

YES
40%

NO
60%

scientific poll of 97 students with a margin of error of +/– 10 percent. Shakerite classes telephoned students.

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"Really? Me too!"
3/16

"You know who looks like a wicker basket?"
3/16

"Hey, my skillet!"
"What's up, my home fries!"
3/23

"So are you going to the meeting tonight?"
"No, I want to watch the war."
3/19

Plan to think outside the box; take a new class

For those who seek a creative outlet in their curriculum, two new classes next year promise to fulfill their fancy. Jewelry I and II classes and Senior Seminar should prove a break from the traditional classroom experience. "[Senior Seminar] will be a time when students raise questions and challenge old answers," said English teacher George Harley, who will teach the class. Senior Seminar is an independent and original course on exploration into the nature of myth and its relationship to literature. "Students want to come together in an intimate atmosphere to discuss high powered literature and to read and discuss, not necessarily test on the literature," Harley said. Students will read approximately four to five authors with a 10-15 page research paper on a topic chosen from a list provided by Harley.

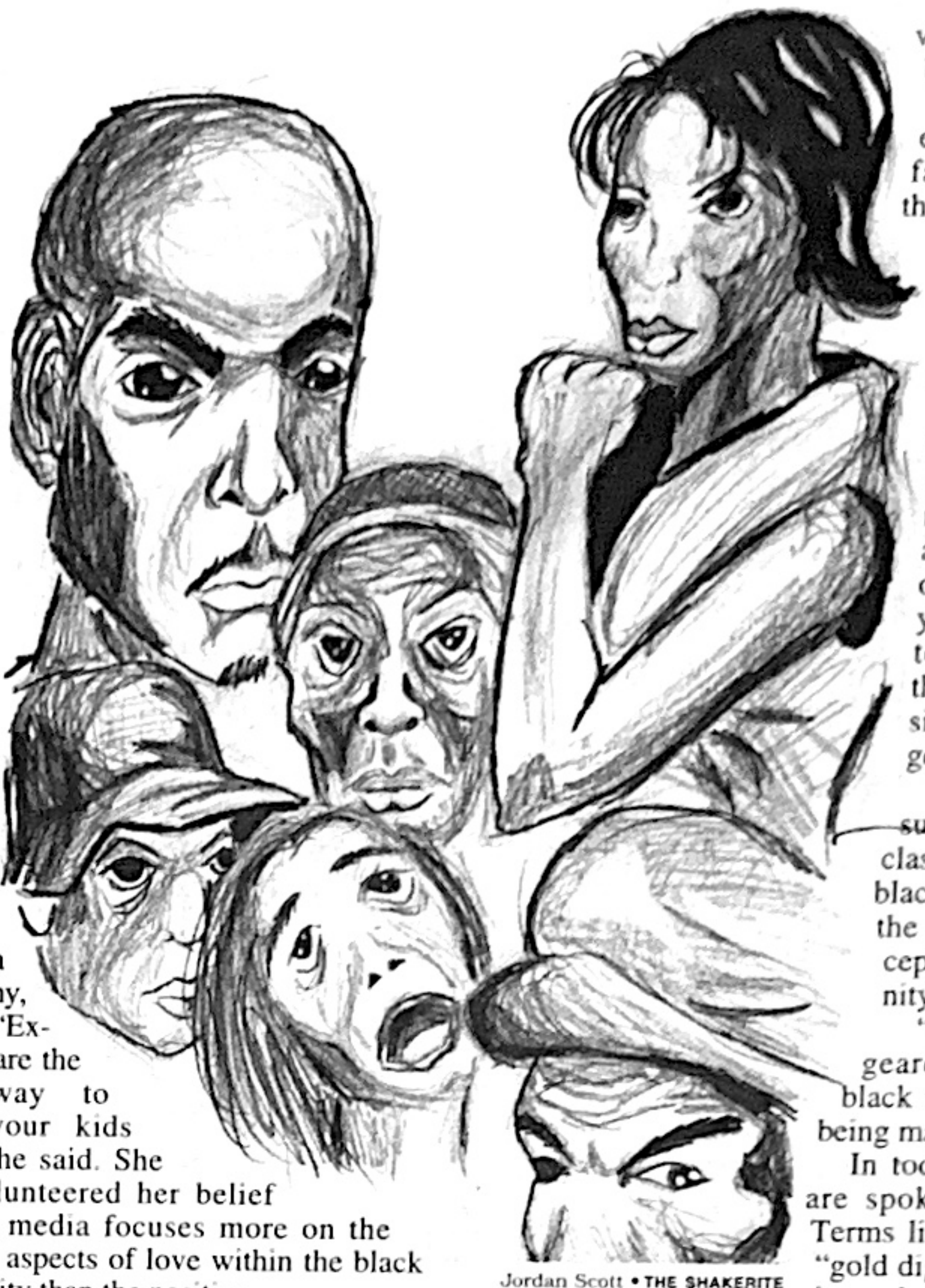
Karen DeMauro, who will teach Jewelry I and II classes, said that students will learn how to cut, form and solder metal into rings and other accessories. "Students will love to create pieces that they will be able to wear. It is a fun class with a new avenue to express their creative thoughts. They will work with a variety of materials that will include glass, polymer clay, beads, metal and stones. Students will create pins, earrings, necklaces, rings and bracelets," DeMauro said.

For more information on either class, see the above teachers or your counselor.

Compiled by Jasmine Merriweather

Struggles of the black family

• Kitchen table conversation reveals setbacks of a community



Jordan Scott • THE SHAKERITE

By Stevona Rogers
STAFF REPORTER

Game of Love

"This isn't my brother," said Aaron Abernathy, putting his arm around his roommate. "But this is my *brother*. We need to get back to that."

The views of Aaron ('01) are those of a frustrated black male. Now a sophomore at Howard University, he believes the black family must rebuild itself.

"Black men don't get married anymore. The average black family doesn't sit down for dinner, and when we do get together it's at a funeral. Everything is centered around death," said Abernathy, who was with his family while on spring break.

Family has always been the core of the African American community and, historically, the importance of moving the community forward has been stressed. But many people today believe the African-American relationship, which is the foundation for any family, is in crisis. According to a 1998 U.S. Census, 11.7 percent of African-American adults are divorced, compared to the national average of 9.8 percent. How do young African-Americans learn to love?

"Example is everything. Your parents don't teach you love, they show you how to love," Aaron said.

On the way to the kitchen, Aaron's mother, Regina Abernathy, agreed. "Examples are the only way to teach your kids love," she said. She also volunteered her belief that the media focuses more on the negative aspects of love within the black community than the positive.

"Most rap music is geared toward the black man," she said. "It teaches the black man to walk away from his children; it teaches the disrespect of the black woman, it teaches him how to never marry so he will never know the joy of having grandchildren."

Regina reminisced about the music of her generation and how it affected relationships of the time. Songs like Stevie Wonder's "Ribbon in the Sky" provided a more positive outlook on love than today's music.

"When I was a teenager, I think our music was important because it was all about how to love each other," Regina said.

Her son agreed. "Our music today is about sex, drugs, death and thugs," he said.

In the absence of TV shows that model loving black families, like The Cosby Show, Serrano Barns, a sophomore at Howard University, believes that rap influences youth to dwell on materialistic values rather than responsibilities.

"We live in a bling, bling era, where kids portray their favorite rapper, chains on their neck, Timbs on their feet and no gas in their homes," said Barns, Aaron's roommate who came along for the spring break trip to Shaker.

During racial integration, prosperous blacks moved out of predominantly black communities and left behind a generation of underprivileged black youth. Through a struggle to express themselves, these youth created rap music, a spin-off of the hip-hop genre.

"Rap music is a class issue which was for the poor class blacks. The middle class blacks then wanted to act like the poor, giving a false perception of the black community," Regina said.

"A lot of rap lyrics are geared negatively toward black women. The disrespect is being marketed in rap videos."

In today's rap music, women are spoken of as commodities. Terms like "bitches," "hoes" and "gold diggers" have been popular in rap lyrics for nearly a decade.

Regina emphasized the idea that women held the responsibility to set this misconception straight. "It's nice to be ghetto-fabulous now," Regina said. "You can't be a raunchy woman and expect someone to respect you ."

She added that women should return to the old fashioned rules. "You can't sleep with everyone," she said. "Why get married when you can go down a line of women?"

"Black women disrespect themselves," Aaron added.

But his sister Anise, a freshman at Howard University, said that the portrayal of women as half naked was only allowed to continue because, as she put it, "Sex sells."

Aaron believes that media images that promote "fake thug" status lead young blacks to destructive ends. "We have been programmed to kill ourselves," he said.

Second in a multi-part series

From radio to Rico, teachers discuss past jobs

By Maya Cooper
STAFF REPORTER

Once upon a time, before our teachers used their famous red pens to mark papers, before phrases like "you're tardy" and "raise your hand" were part of their daily lingo, and before they taught us in blocked 50-minute periods, our teachers had other interesting occupations.

Before English teacher John Morris and social studies teacher Andi Glickman began team teaching the American Experience course, each experienced a series of prior careers.

Morris was involved in theater and music in college and has worked as a cook, carpenter and landscaper. He said he enjoyed working as a cook because it gave him a chance to be creative. But since age 16, he knew that he wanted to teach. He has taught at both college and high school levels, but prefers high school because he has more direct contact with students and gets to know them better.

Courtesy of Kimberly Ponce de Leon

SPANISH TEACHER KIMBERLY Ponce de Leon enjoys a meal with a Puerto Rican family during her stay on the island, where she taught English as a second language.

Shaker alumna Glickman was a D.J. for the "World of Jazz" program on her college radio station 96.1 FM. Her favorite job before becoming a teacher was working as a horse wrangler. She said she liked it because, "I got to be outside, got to interact with animals in the mountains and the scenery was beautiful . . . and no grading." She wanted to become a teacher because she realized the advantages of her Shaker education and wanted to be a part of the process for others.

Science teacher Bill Scanlon has known he wanted to be a teacher since high school. Before coming to Shaker, he worked at an outdoor camp with inner city kids, lived and worked with developmentally disabled kids in Pittsburgh and taught physics in West Virginia.

Spanish teachers Jose Perez and Kimberly Ponce de Leon have followed different paths to the same field. Perez served in the army, worked for the Social Security Administration and was a medical lab technician. Perez said that he saw good opportunities for educational advancement and good job security in teaching.

Ponce de Leon worked as a lifeguard in college. She taught English as a second language in Puerto Rico and was in the Peace Corps in Paraguay working with agricultural families.

While working with the Peace Corps, she traveled through South America and enjoyed the native hospitality.

Though her father was a teacher, she hadn't considered the profession until she found in Puerto Rico that she really liked working with young people. She realized that she had a talent and that being in contact with young people would help her with her own children.

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MARCH 28th

Everclear
This band is a mixture of alternative rock and pop-esque flair.
Place Agora
Price $19.50
APRIL 13th

Avril Lavigne
She's a guitar-wielding 17-year-old punk rocker female with a lot to say.
Place CSU Convocation Center
Price $22.50 - 27.50
APRIL 15th

Pearl Jam
This talented Seattle-based rock band is well-known for its energetic performances.
Place Gund Arena
Price $35
APRIL 25th

five MINUTE critic

The Ring on DVD

Starring: Naomi Watts, Martin Henderson
Director: Gore Verbinski
Price: $19.96 on cdnow.com

Although I am not one for scary movies, I can say that The Ring was a well-done thriller. Despite the unrealistic idea of a murderous videotape, the suspense of the film kept me on the edge of my seat (and at some points under a blanket covering my eyes). The DVD version is well done, although disc skipping was a large distraction during critical parts of the movie.

★★★
out of four
-Emily Ozan

View From the Top

Starring: *Gwyneth Paltrow, Chritina* Applegate
Director: Bruno Barreto

According to Donna (Paltrow), Cleveland is one big waiting room; everyone is just waiting for a turn to leave. Cleveland is the butt of many jokes in this comedy, a film about a small-town girl whose only dream is to become a flight attendant. Though it will never win an Academy Award, it will have you flying high.

★★★★
out of four
-Rebecca Wolff

The Hunted

Starring: Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio Del Toro
Director: William Friedkin

"The Hunted" is a creepy, disjointed movie about an ex-military man gone crazy. The movie's feeble attempts to show the primitive creature brought out in Del Toro by the violence of war yielded a laughable storyline, while Jones' performance left much to be desired. If you still want to see this movie, wait until it is on video.

★
out of four
-Rebecca Wolff

Sankofa brings history to the stage

By Betty Elee
STAFF REPORTER

"Hit those doors, people! Hit those doors! We're starting practice. Go on in!"

Senior Patricia Chatman, co-head leader of this year's Sankofa program, shouted directions to the crowd of dancers, singers, actors and poets congregated in front of the auditorium before an after-school rehearsal. The performance on Feb. 28 ended Black History Month with a bang.

"Sankofa is the teaching of history to the ignorant," Chatman said. "You come out with knowledge you'd never know otherwise."

"It's about educating the masses about the stuff they don't know," added co-head leader Stevona Rogers, a senior.

Joe Houser and Larraine Freeman, Sankofa's head advisers, appointed Chatman and Rogers to their positions in January to work on scripts for this year's Black History Month production, "Look Back, Give Back."

"We were looking for leaders that were dedicated, respectful, open-minded, flexible and good communicators," Freeman said. "We've really got a good group here."

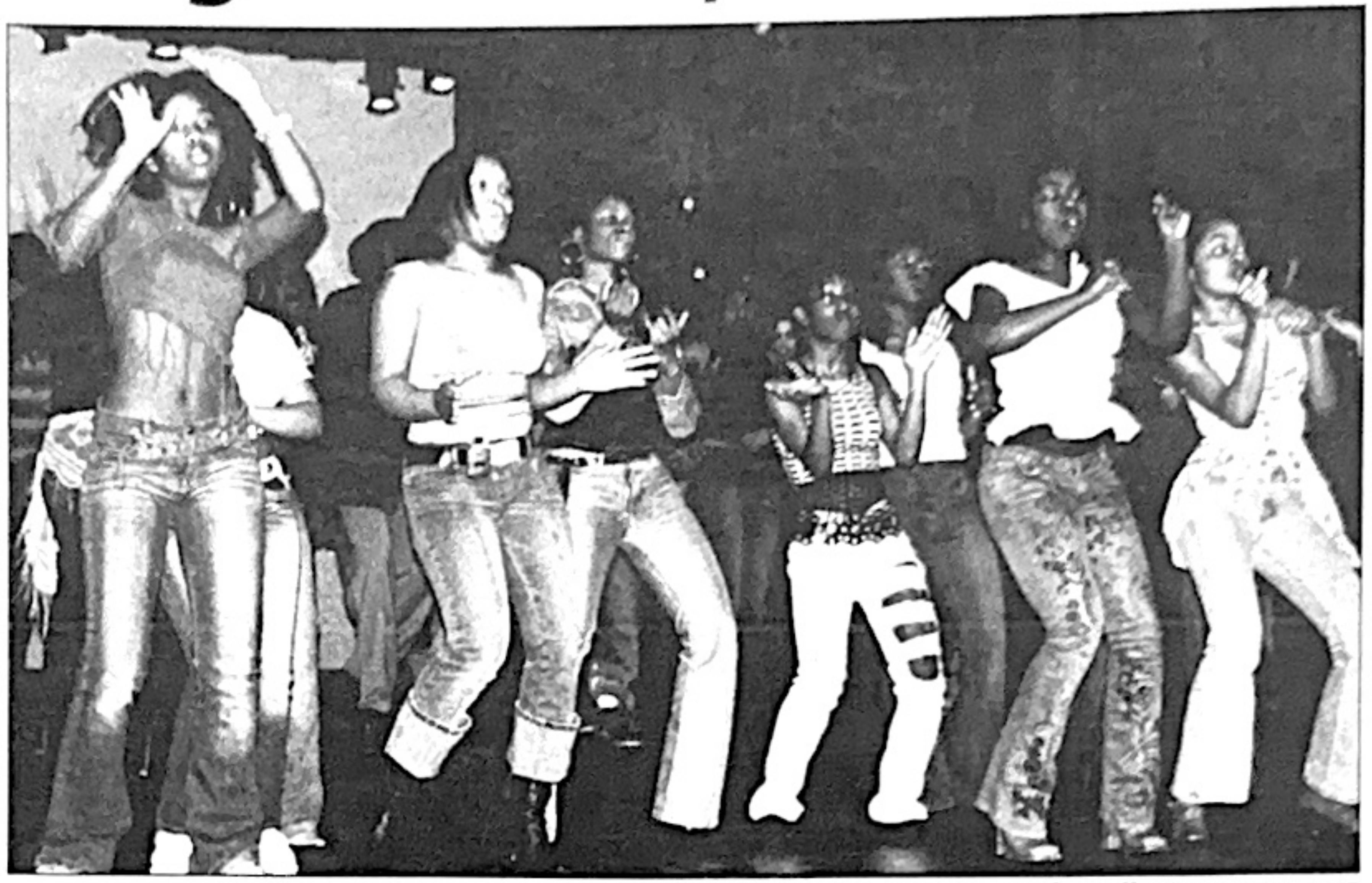
Rogers and Chatman were inspired by a video of the first Sankofa, which entailed traditional African music and clothing and libations to the elders. This year included reggae, free-styling, break-dancing, salsa and swing, serving to perpetuate *Sankofa's second purpose: to remind the community that African-American history is everyone's history.*

Sankofa's objectives are threefold, the last being to showcase student talent.

Senior Chris Lassiter, who played Mann Onesimus (the African-American slave who first suggested injecting smallpox into the afflicted as a method of inoculation), loved the dancing portion.

"They cover the entire spectrum with swing, salsa, hip hop and traditional dance," he said.

Some participants were motivated not by the dancing but by the educational experience. Caucasian sophomore Julie Broadbent first became interested in Sankofa after seeing it last year and taking the African-American History course at school. She recognized the lack of diversity in that class and in Sankofa, and she decided to add her race to the mix.



MEMBERS OF SANKOFA perform a reggae-style dance. The show incorporated different genres of dance to give members of the audience the feeling that African-American history is everyone's history.

Laura Kangas •THE SHAKERITE

"We may have salt-and-pepper classes, but people don't look at the lack of interaction between the classes' races," Broadbent said. "In Sankofa, I felt like it didn't really matter that I was white. I felt welcomed."

Another white participant was inspired by an instructor. Sophomore Ann Walter was a salsa dancer for Sankofa. She hadn't considered joining until her French teacher recommended her to Carlos Sanchez, the salsa dance instructor.

"I was kinda uncomfortable at first, but I'm really comfortable with it now, since Sankofa is not just about African-American culture," Walter said.

Regarding the diversity issue, senior stage manager Arthur Boyd said that the abundance of black participants was not intentional. "It just happened that way," the senior said. "Besides, we still have Mike and Julie." Mike Amaddio, the junior whom Boyd spoke of, rapped with senior Derrick Comedy in a "black-and-white battle."

The appearance of senior Marco Estupinan, an exchange student from Ecuador, enhanced the program's diversity beyond black-and-white. Estupinan joined the salsa club to reconnect with his distant homeland.

"I'm just trying to enjoy it all," Estupinan said. "I too would like to have more races."

Junior Alex Goggins, *an African-American, found his place in Sankofa* via his Capoeira Angola skills. **Capoeira Angola is the African/Brazilian martial art that slaves in Brazil** created and then practiced in secret for 400 years after it was outlawed. It serves to set dancers on a path of self-knowledge if facing adversity.

"If you don't know where you're from, you don't know where you're going," he said.

But Goggins noted that some students might misunderstand the large number of black actors in Sankofa.

"We're not a perfect community or school," he said. "It's Black History Month, so people of other nationalities aren't going to associate themselves with us. I hope next year more people understand because Sankofa involves every single solitary race."

A diverse panel of teachers and Sankofa advisers discussed the theme for the performance. But regardless of what theme is used, who picks the theme, where the practices are held or any of the other details of Sankofa, Freeman feels that it's important to keep things in perspective.

"I hope the community, district, students and faculty *all appreciate the hard work of the kids. I hope they enjoy the show," she said.*

Sankofa Success

This year Sankofa displayed a wide array of cultural dances and music. The program ran smoothly, and though it slowed down at times for scene transitions and musical interludes, these breaks were almost unnoticeable.

"My favorite part was the intersection of societies and that it showed all the influences of different cultures," sophomore Emma Witte said.

Each year the bar is raised for Sankofa's standards, and evidently seniors Stevona Rogers and Patricia Chatman managed to clear the bar.

Two new Cleveland restaurants tingle tastebuds

•**PACIFIC EAST**, a new restaurant on Coventry, serves up great sushi deals that are tasty

Now that Pacific East is in town, Clevelanders can finally find moderately priced yet high quality sushi. The Japanese restaurant on Coventry offers a wide variety of sushi, sashimi and hot meals that are affordable to high school students.

When I walked into the restaurant I immediately felt comfortable and relaxed; the painted blue walls and Japanese decor created a serene atmosphere for lunch.

I was seated promptly and began to look at the comprehensive menu as the waiter poured hot tea into my cup.

For my meal I tried the Maki Combo: two or three kinds of sushi rolls and miso soup. I recommend this meal in order to try a variety of options. The different kinds of sushi availible include such ingredients as avocado, crab, smoked salmon and tuna.

You can even create your own rolls. Pacific East offers a broad selection of noodles and appetizers as well.

My lunch for two people which consisted of a Maki Combo with two groups of six sushi rolls, two bowls of miso soup, and six spider rolls (soft-shell crab, avocado and cucumber), cost less than $17.

Overall, Pacific East is a great choice for Japanese cuisine without the high prices that usually go along with it.

out of four
-Emily Ozan

Pacific East

Address: 1763 Coventry Road
Phone Number: (216) 320-2302
Hours: Monday-Thursday 11a.m.-3 p.m., 5 p.m.-10 p.m; Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 5 p.m.-11 p.m.; Saturday 12 p.m.-3 p.m., 5 p.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday 3 p.m.-10 p.m.
Prices: Sushi A La Carte $2.95-$15.95; Noodles $6.95-$10.95

when DINING out

•Tomaydo Tomahhdo in Woodmere is a new alternative to Panera with affordable Italian food

Don't settle for a mediocre salad at McDonald's, when right across the street is Tomaydo Tomahhdo, a moderately priced Panera-esque restaurant (the only difference is that waiters bring the food to your table). The restaurant has a great variety of mostly Italian food, ranging from gourmet pizza to salads to sandwiches or wraps.

The soups featured when I went were unique - chicken tortilla, fettuccine chicken noodle soup and turkey chili.

The self-serve pop machine also had both Pepsi and Coke, a major bonus for those who are picky about their cola choice.

I enjoyed an almost full-size garden salad and a small green pepper-topped pizza for a mere $6.95. Both items were fresh and delicious. I also tried a turkey sandwich on foccacia, which was a little oily but it was still tasty.

The restaurant had an "on-the-go" feel. In every corner was a TV featuring either ESPN or CNN. However, the music made it seem a little loud. A small upper level with two tables could serve as a place for a small get-together or party.

Instead of spending your money on fast food, get a great meal at Tomaydo Tomahhdo, a comparably priced and much more enjoyable restaurant.

out of four
-Liz Campbell

Tomaydo Tomahhdo

Address: 3429 W. Brainard Rd. (at Chagrin Blvd. & Brainard)
Phone Number: (216) 591-9191
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Prices: Lunch combinations $5.95-$6.95; Sandwiches $6.95-$7.95, 9" pizza $3.50

Paintings spice up the cafeteria walls

By Emily Ozan
ARTS EDITOR

Ice pops are relaxing in a field of berries; pretzels are floating through the air in the cafeteria. No, the school doesn't have a new lunch menu, but there are new choices for viewing during your mid-day meal.

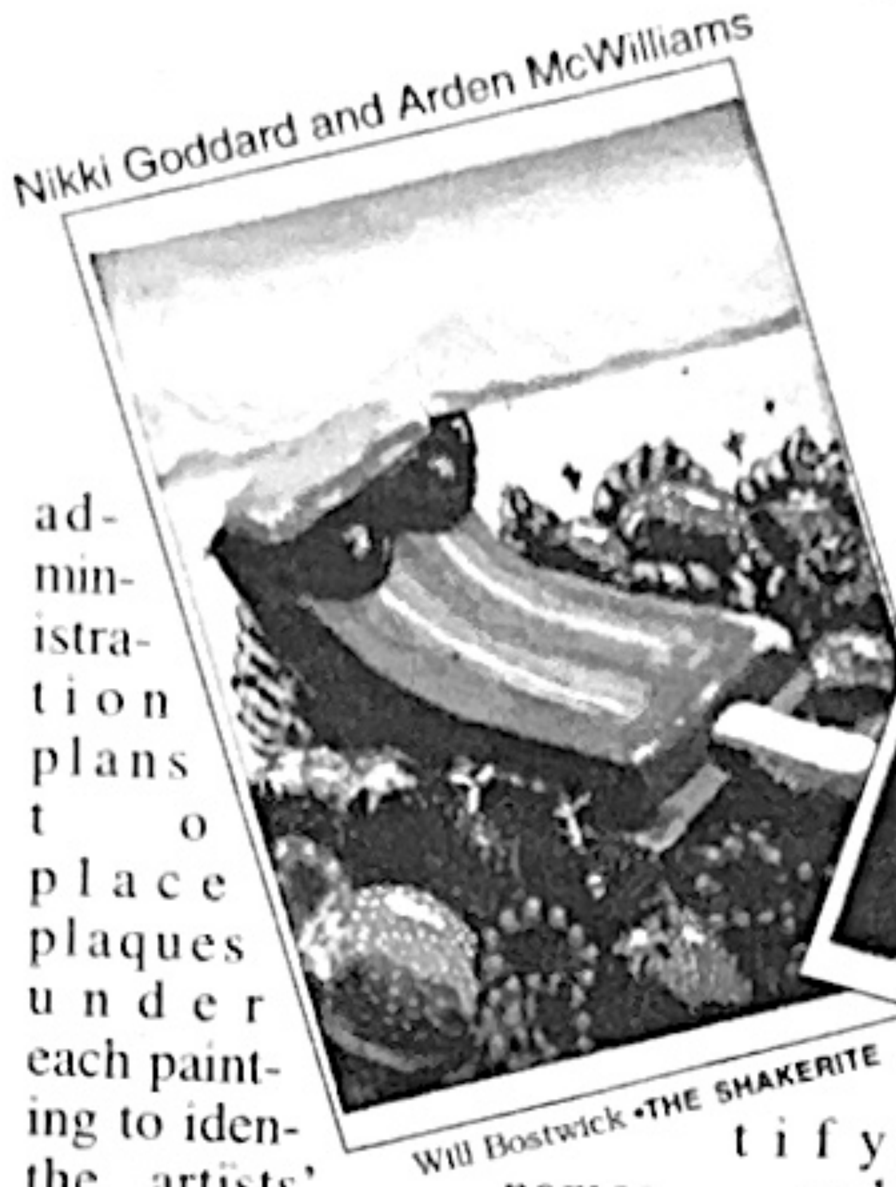
Daniel Whitely's Honors Painting students teamed up and created a collection of food-related paintings that have been displayed on the formerly blank, white cafeteria walls.

"The cafeteria was pretty ugly before. It made it more colorful and a happier place to be," Honors Painting junior Nikki Goddard said. Goddard and junior Arden McWilliams painted an ice pop wearing sunglasses.

Whitely assigned this project with the intention of showing it in school. "We wanted something that really stands out from a distance," he said.

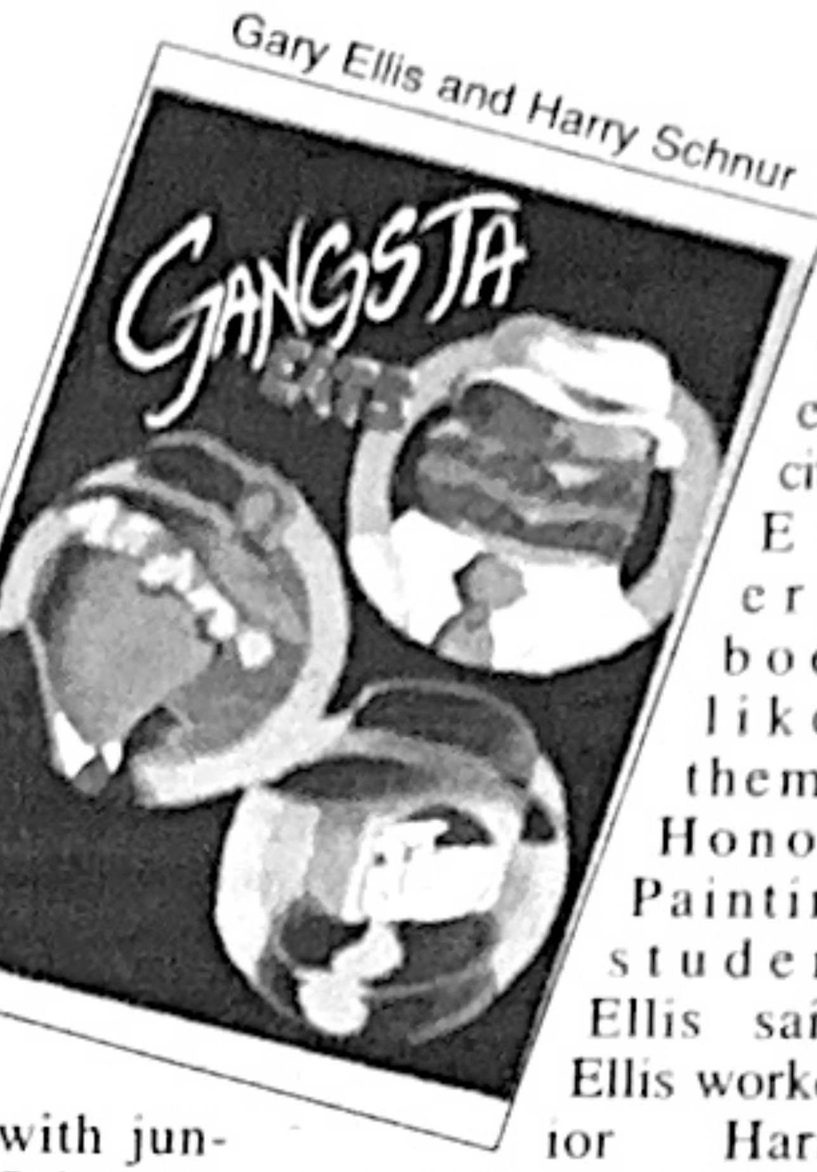
In addition to decorating old walls, the new artwork gives painting students personal satisfaction. The administration plans to place plaques under each painting to identify the artists' names and graduating years.

Nikki Goddard and Arden McWilliams



Will Bostwick •THE SHAKERITE

Gary Ellis and Harry Schnur



"It's cool to be able to walk in there and be like, 'Hey! I did that,'" Goddard said.

Junior Gary Ellis enjoys seeing his artwork in the cafeteria as well.

"It was a new experience to me. I was excited. Everybody liked them," Honors Painting student Ellis said. Ellis worked with junior Harry Schnur on the painting that reads, "Gangsta Eats."

Although the paintings add excitement to the cafeteria, there was originally some skepticism on how other students would treat the work.

"I kind of walk by and check every day to see if anyone has written on it," Goddard said.

But Whitely does not foresee a vandalism problem.

"There was concern from some faculty and students that the pieces might be abused, but all along the painting department felt that if the pieces were strong, well done and well presented, then the students would respect them," Whitely said.

Ellis agrees. "I think the students are mature enough not to mess with them," he said.

As a precaution, there will be a clear varnish over the paintings to ensure that no damage is done.

The art department plans on extending the gallery of artwork into the other side of the cafeteria by displaying renaissance art for the upcoming annual Artfest in May. They will also exhibit student work in the faculty lounge.

"The hopes are to start these little galleries throughout the school and put them on the website (www.shaker.org)," Whitely said.

Stitching up a new trend

• Knitting is popular for Shaker students and staff

By December Kinney
STAFF REPORTER

Between polyester pants, dyed blonde hair and now a pair of knitting needles, it's getting more difficult to tell the difference between a fellow student and your grandmother.

Though complicated to the inexperienced eye, knitting is becoming more popular among teenagers.

"It takes some practice," junior Selena Simmons-Duffin said. "If you're just starting, you go pretty slow and you have to concentrate. Once you get the hang of it, it's simple."

Though she describes herself as being "not a very devoted knitter," Simmons-Duffin has been knitting since she was little and enjoys its creative freedom. "You can make it exactly the way you want to suit an outfit you really like," she said.

It is even possible to customize yarn color. School nurse Paula Dworkin, who has been knitting since she was about six years old, buys white yarn from art stores and hand dyes it to make purses, sweaters, socks, potholders and washcloths.

Laura Kangas•THE SHAKERITE

SENIOR ABIGAIL CAHILL knits in her spare time. Knitting has become popular recently.

Senior Abigail Cahill has made a scarf and hat since October when she began; each took eight to 10 hours.

"After a while, you're knitting and it doesn't seem like it's getting any longer," she said.

Nevertheless, Cahill likes the fact that knitting requires no nitty-gritty measurements. "You just have to choose a pattern, choose the right size needles, choose the right colors and follow a pattern," she said.

Dworkin agrees that it is a relaxing pastime.

"It's very easy to learn. I could teach anyone how to knit," she said.

NEWS • New Stages was relocated • page 4

Brian Gamm•THE SHAKERITE

SENIORS DOUG MARTIN and David Ratner rehearse for "Innocence." The production was student-directed by senior Tina Jackson.

New Stages puts spotlight on students

FROM STAGE, PAGE 1

always been a mentor for me, so it's been cool working with her," she said.

Jackson felt similarly. "I was more than happy having Anna along with me on this project. [She's a] great manager, great support, and a great friend," Jackson said.

But directors hold only half of the stress; actors shoulder the rest.

"It's the first time we're doing this particular play, and even though it's an amazing process, it's also extremely difficult. It's like a roller coaster. When you're in line you're really nervous, but when you get on, you're like, 'There's no bailing out now,' and then it's go time," senior David Ratner, a nameless character in Jackson's production said.

Doug Martin, who plays a second unnamed character, said that acting opposite Ratner has been a learning experience. "[Ratner] helps me to become a better actor," he said.

Having a student director can also be hard on the actors. "I didn't know what to expect, having one of my closest friends as a director," said senior Katherine Coverdale, who is the third unnamed character. "But I've been very pleasantly surprised at how smoothly things have gone, and how much knowledge and insight [Jackson] added to our play."

Above the stress and work put into the plays, something even more valuable comes from the experience. "I feel like we were a pretty tight cast in the beginning," said Coverdale. "But now we're even more close."

five MINUTE critic

Coldplay

Date: March 9
Venue: PromoWest Pavilion, Columbus
Coming Up: June 10, Tower City Amphitheater

On March 9, about 3,000 people flocked to the PromoWest Pavillion in Columbus for one reason: Coldplay. An English premier rock band, the group energetically performed songs such as "Spies," "Yellow" and "Clocks" that kept the crowd engaged for an hour and 20 minutes. The band even played three new songs. My advice is to get tickets to the Cleveland show as fast as you can.

★★★★
out of four
-Matt Seidner

The Grand Scheme and Wasabi

Venue: Peabody's
Date: March 1
Coming Up: April 26, The Rhythm Room

The Grand Scheme left the crowd thirsty for more at their debut performance with creative instrumental melodies. Junior Eileen O'Neill on keyboard, junior Harry Schnur playing drums, '02 grad Dave Rupp on bass and senior Loren Anthes on guitar are sure to go far. Wasabi followed with a fun show highlighted by a cover of Ben Harper's "Steal My Kisses." Forget Jim Brickman; some of Shaker's best musicians are still playing in Cleveland.

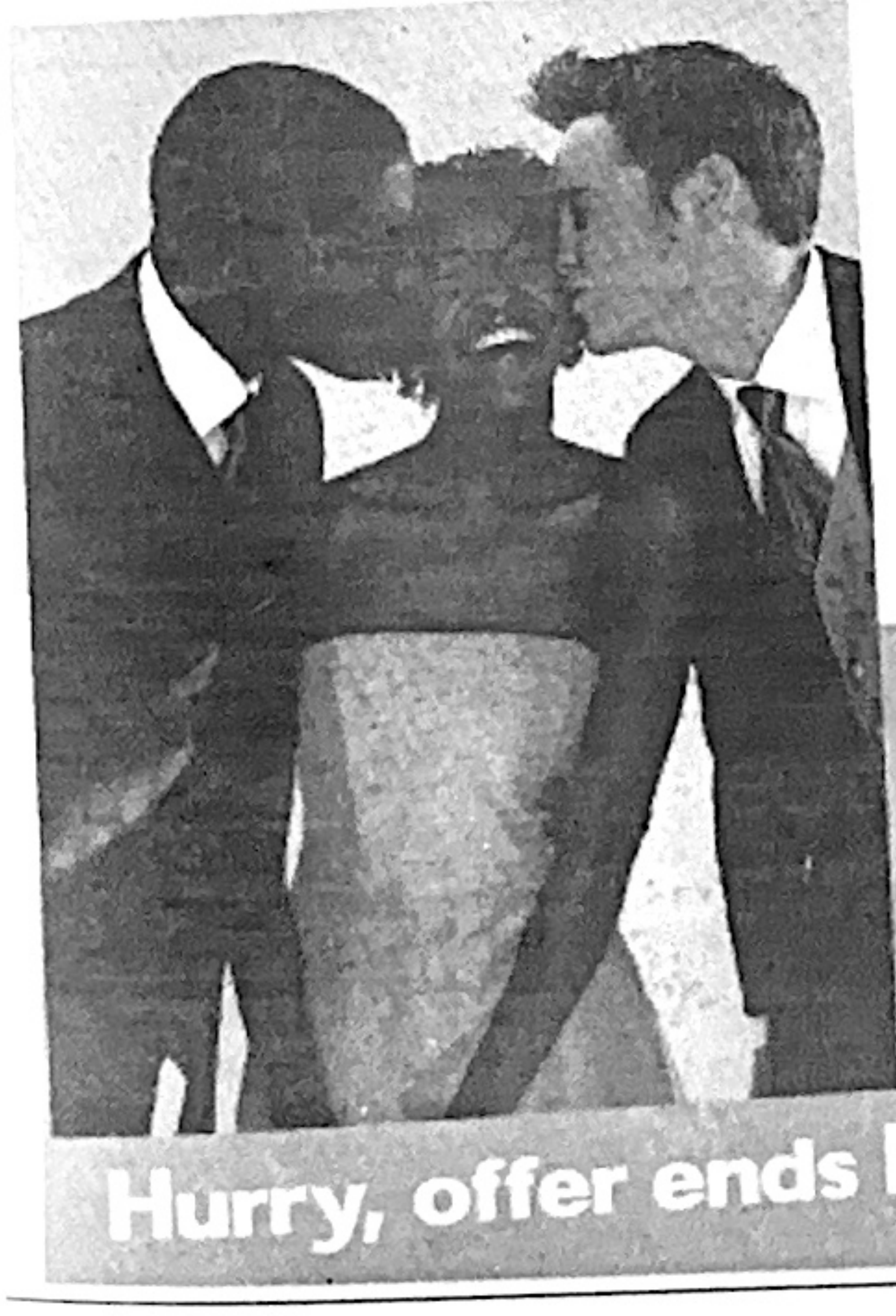
★★★★
out of four
-Hallie Dietsch

Wish You Were Here

Venue: The Odeon
Date: March 8

The Wish You Were Here concert was a throwback to the '70s with the amazing riffs and mentally stimulating sounds of classic Pink Floyd. In tribute to the 30th anniversary of the release of "Dark Side of the Moon," the cover band played the entire album to the sold-out theater.

★★★
out of four
-Jeff Greenwald



Hurry, offer ends March 31st!

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Create your prom 2003 look with After Hours Formalwear.

We offer you the biggest selection of tuxedos, vests & accessories to complement your style & your date.

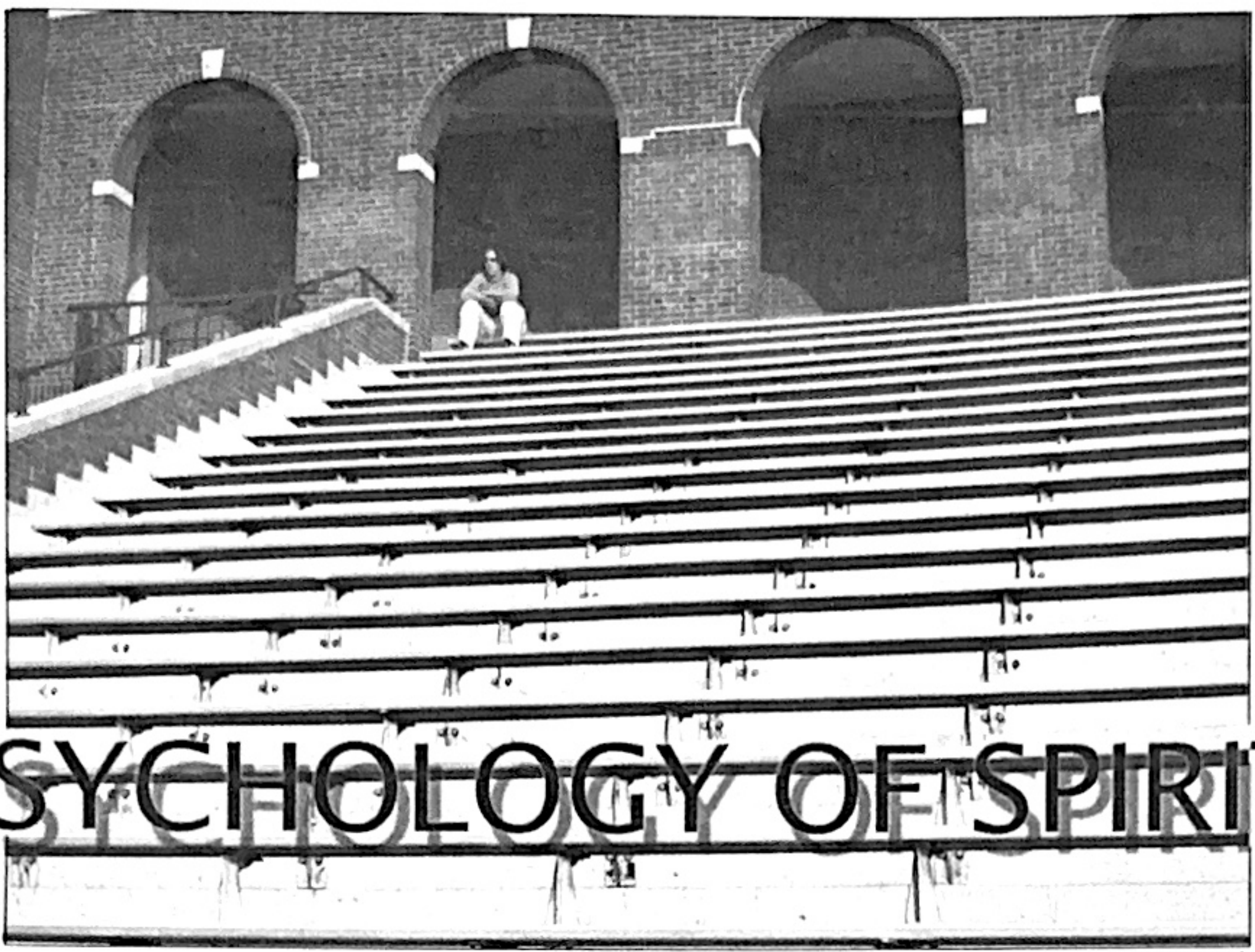
Save $20 off your tux and get a **free shoe upgrade,** plus ask how to get your prom tux ••••.•

••••• tux •• Here's how:

Stop in right away to reserve your tuxedo and accessories, and pick up coupons to give to your friends. Each coupon that's redeemed with your name on it will earn you an additional 10% off your prom tux rental. With 10 redeemed coupons your tux rental is ••••. See store for details.

Plus, get a **free fashion shoe upgrade!**
Hurry, offer ends 3/31/03.
Shop early to get the best selection.

READ THE SHAKERITE



PSYCHOLOGY OF SPIRIT

Photo Illustration By Will Bostwick

THE VARIETY OF options that students at Shaker have in all activities makes it difficult for people to find time to support their peers, often resulting in poor attendance at sporting events and a lack of school spirit.

• School spirit at Shaker severely diminished by variety of activities

By Katherine Ekeberg
SPORTS EDITOR

Shaker normally has one of the top sports programs in the state. Teams consistently rank highly in state-wide polls and almost always make the playoffs. However, some see Shaker as a school with little or no spirit.

"From what I've seen, [spirit] has been declining since about five years ago," said junior Kevin Strang, who plays hockey and men's lacrosse.

Senior pitcher Mike Baker suggests a cause for this decrease.

"I think spirit has fallen out since pep rallies have been eliminated," Baker said.

Assistant hockey coach Will Simon disagrees. "At the hockey games I think school spirit is very abundant," he said.

The very definition of school spirit is often debated. Some measure it by student attitudes, the number of games they attend and the their behavior at games. Others think of the extremes seen on TV and movies: painted faces, wild hair and clothes and loud chants directed against the opposing team.

While Shaker embodies these qualities at certain games, it hardly compares to the games at schools such as Lakewood, Mentor and St. Ignatius.

Every football game at St. Ignatius has a full student section, where students stand continuously throughout the game. They have precise cheers for specific events, such as shaking their keys when the opposing team has a fourth down and chanting a certain cheer for kick-offs. The crowd breaks into, "Let's go Cats!" at random periods during the game.

> "There's such a variety of other activities . . . it is hard when you are involved to support others."
>
> Yvonne Horstman
> sociology teacher

"Being at the games is a lot of fun. You can tell the students really care and are really into the game," said Matt White, a senior at St. Ignatius.

Shaker games are remarkably more subdued. The concentrated majority of students are from the band, and the rest are spread throughout the stands amongst parents, teachers and community members.

"St. Ignatius students are extremely enthusiastic...[Shaker] is not as enthusiastic at football games," senior Sarah Ludgin said. She believes students show their spirit more at hockey and basketball games.

Hockey goaltender Dan Koletsky agrees the spirit at hockey games is strong. He points to the first hockey game of the season as a standout. "It was packed; everyone was having a good time," he said.

Sociology teacher Yvonne Horstman points to a diversity of interests and the vibrant theater and arts programs as possible causes for Shaker's spirit deficit. "There's such a variety of other activities . . . it is hard when you are involved to support others," Horstman said.

Students think Shaker lacks the community of other rival LEL schools. "Mentor and Lakewood are more communities," senior cheerleader Cristin Wood said. She believes those schools are more united in supporting their teams and offered a suggestion to improve the situation. "If we were allowed to have pep rallies and rivalry games at night, it might help," Wood said.

Horseman believes getting the word out more about the teams' games would help. "For example, give the scores on the announcements," she said. However, she also recognizes that the large number of games could conflict with other announcements made during the day.

Miraculous games take players and fans to worriless world

Games, in their purest form, must have originated from something meaningless-a person kicking a can, throwing a rock at a target or hitting a ball with a stick.

As a kid I created an assortment of games, most of them arising from the depths of boredom. Their purposes were always futile and always supremely difficult, but to me they meant something. For a few moments, nothing else mattered except for the task that I had set out to achieve.

It appears that this is the ultimate purpose of sports. They allow participants to escape into a surreal place where worldly problems can disappear into nothingness for some small measure of time.

JEFF GREENWALD
SPORTS EDITOR

Last weekend I stared through an emotionless trance, watching horrifying images flashing on TV-all live, all graphic and all true. The merits of the conflict do not interest me, but I know that any war is frightening beyond words. In the last week, the newest generation of Americans has, for the first time, begun to observe the horror and tragedies of military confrontation.

> "They allow participants to escape into a surreal place where worldly problems can disappear into nothingness for some small measure of time."

With coverage on every major TV station and conversations around school debating little other than the morality of the offensive, there seemed to be no way to avoid the war.

Luckily, when my friends and I turned on the TV late Friday night searching for anything but war coverage, the major stations had returned to regularly scheduled programming. I flipped through the channels aimlessly until I passed CBS, and there it was: Maryland and North Carolina Wilmington were in a head-to-head contest with only a few minutes left to play.

Wilmington, the underdog, pulled ahead with less than a minute left and appeared to have the game won, but with 10.9 seconds remaining the Terrapins had one last chance. Drew Nicholls drove down the court and put up a desperate, last-second, pray-to-the-gods three-pointer-nothing but net.

Along with the crowd inside the Nashville venue, we went wild, awestruck by the drama that had just transpired.

I doubt that people watching the final seconds tick away had anything on their minds but the end of the game. The emotion was too high, the spectacle too great and the time too drawn out to think of anything else.

Post-game coverage quickly wrapped up the remarkable conclusion, and we settled down. Images of the war returned during the introduction to the evening news. The somber feelings of the times resurfaced, but the game had allowed us to leave reality for a few minutes. It had removed us from the alarming world events and had given us a carefree moment; it had achieved its purpose.

Inside the Numbers

SOFTBALL

- The team is looking to improve its standing in the LEL from last year and hoping to place in the top three.
- The biggest challenge they must face is coming together and learning to play as a team.
- **Monica Ruzic**, **Alli Hall**, and **Liz Habat** are expected to have productive seasons.

Last Year
W 10
L 14
T 0

CREW

- The team will open the season as a varsity squad for the first time in its history.
- They have had good attendance and are looking for their best season on record.
- The key is teamwork because the sport is so cooperative.
- The team is looking toward the Midwest Championships in Detroit, MI.

TRACK

- The team needs to put forth solid, constant effort in order to succeed during the season.
- Junior **Amani Floyd** should run well in the 400 and 100 as should **Ashleigh Blandon** in the 400, 200, and 100.
- The team faces Mentor in an important LEL match-up at home on Apr. 23 and opens at Elyria on Mar. 29.

TRACK

- The team hopes to build on its strong performance last year led by the 4x400 relay of **Anthony Little**, **Mike Bell**, **Terrell Thompson** and **Steve Malone**.
- Their biggest challenge will be maintaining their willingness to work hard.
- Meets against Elyria on Mar 29 and Mentor on Apr. 23 standout as the month's toughest.

Last Year
W 6
L 1
T 0

LAX

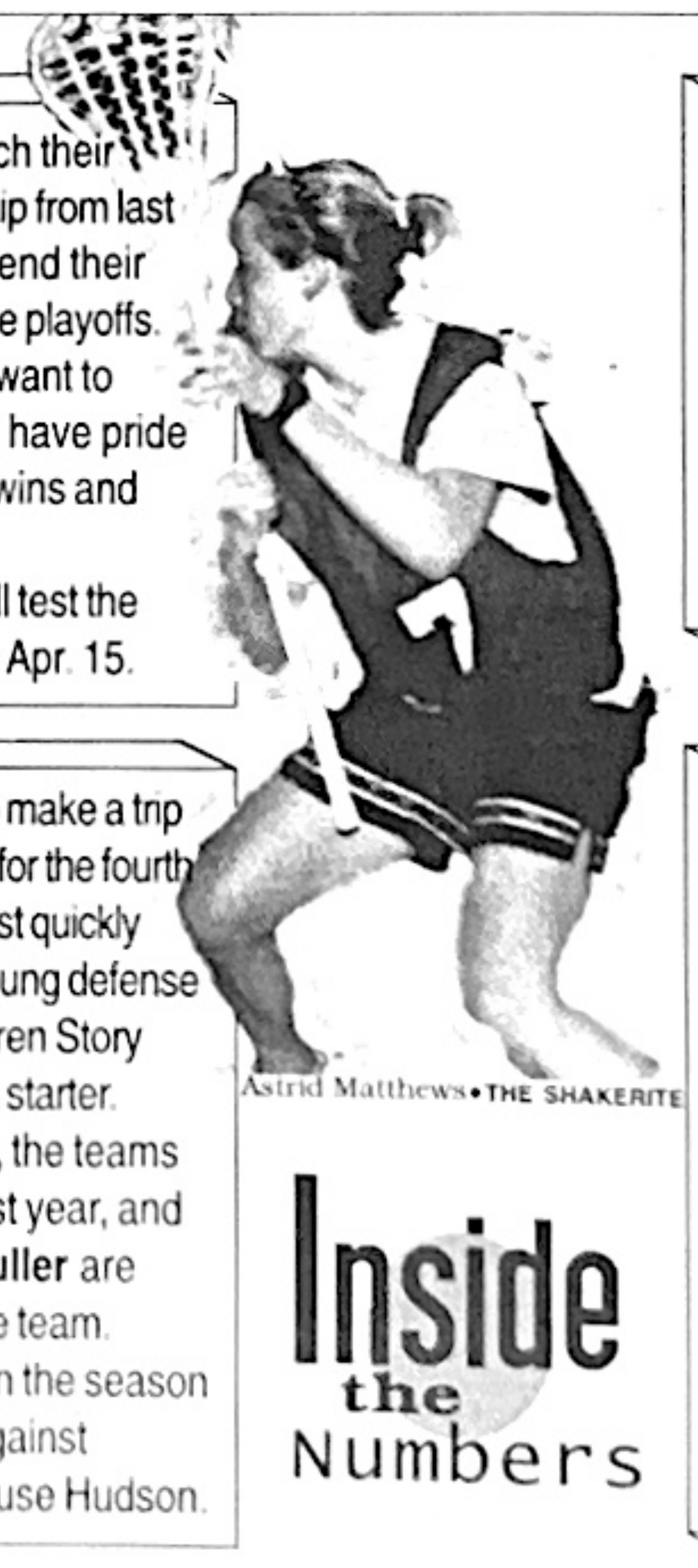
- They hope to match their league championship from last year and extend their success to the playoffs.
- They must want to improve and have pride in both their wins and losses.
- Kent Roosevelt will test the teams character on Apr. 15.

Last Year
W 11
L 4
T 0

LAX

- The team hopes to make a trip to the state final four for the fourth straight year, but must quickly develop its young defense with only Lauren Story returning as a starter.
- **Ann Elliott,** the teams top scorer last year, and **Gretchen Fuller** are expected to lead the team.
- The team will open the season March 8 at home against perennial powerhouse Hudson.

Last Year
W 14
L 1
T 0



Astrid Matthews • THE SHAKERITE

BASEBALL

- The team needs to develop a sense of unity and work hard every game to win.
- They hope return to regional competition after a strong performance last year.
- The team goes to league rival Mentor on Apr. 16.

Last Year
W 19
L 7
T 0

TENNEIS

- The team is young and looking to develop its talent for the future.
- The keys to success are keeping a positive attitude and working as a team.
- Players to watch include junior captains **Owen Hearey** and **Paul Bixenstine** and freshman **Maurice Rucker**.
- The team faces rival Cleveland Hts. at home on May 2, the winner should take they LEL.

Last Year
W 16
L 9
T 0

Bring it on! Cheerleaders rally to national competition

By Matt Seidner
BUSINESS MANAGER

Shaker, get pumped! The cheerleading squad is headed to the Cheerleaders of America nationals in Orlando, Florida.

This year, the team made history as the first Shaker cheerleading squad to advance to a national competition. Both JV and varsity teams qualified at the regional competition at Cuyahoga Falls High School on Nov. 17 to move on to nationals. The varsity women took first place in their category.

"It's an honor because we've gotten better every year," said Denise Mack, a junior on the varsity squad. Mack said that this is the first year that either team has attempted to make it to the regional competition, let alone the national one.

Instead of the traditional stunt-and-flip-laden routines many attach to cheerleaders, the Shaker teams participate in a hip-hop/funk style category. The routine must be between two and two and a half minutes long and can contain no provocative dance moves such as pelvic thrusts. They rely on intense, quick movements in order to impress judges and excite the crowd.

"We're energetic and its fast-paced music. It's fun; it's entertainment," junior JV co-captain Cherrelle Turner said.

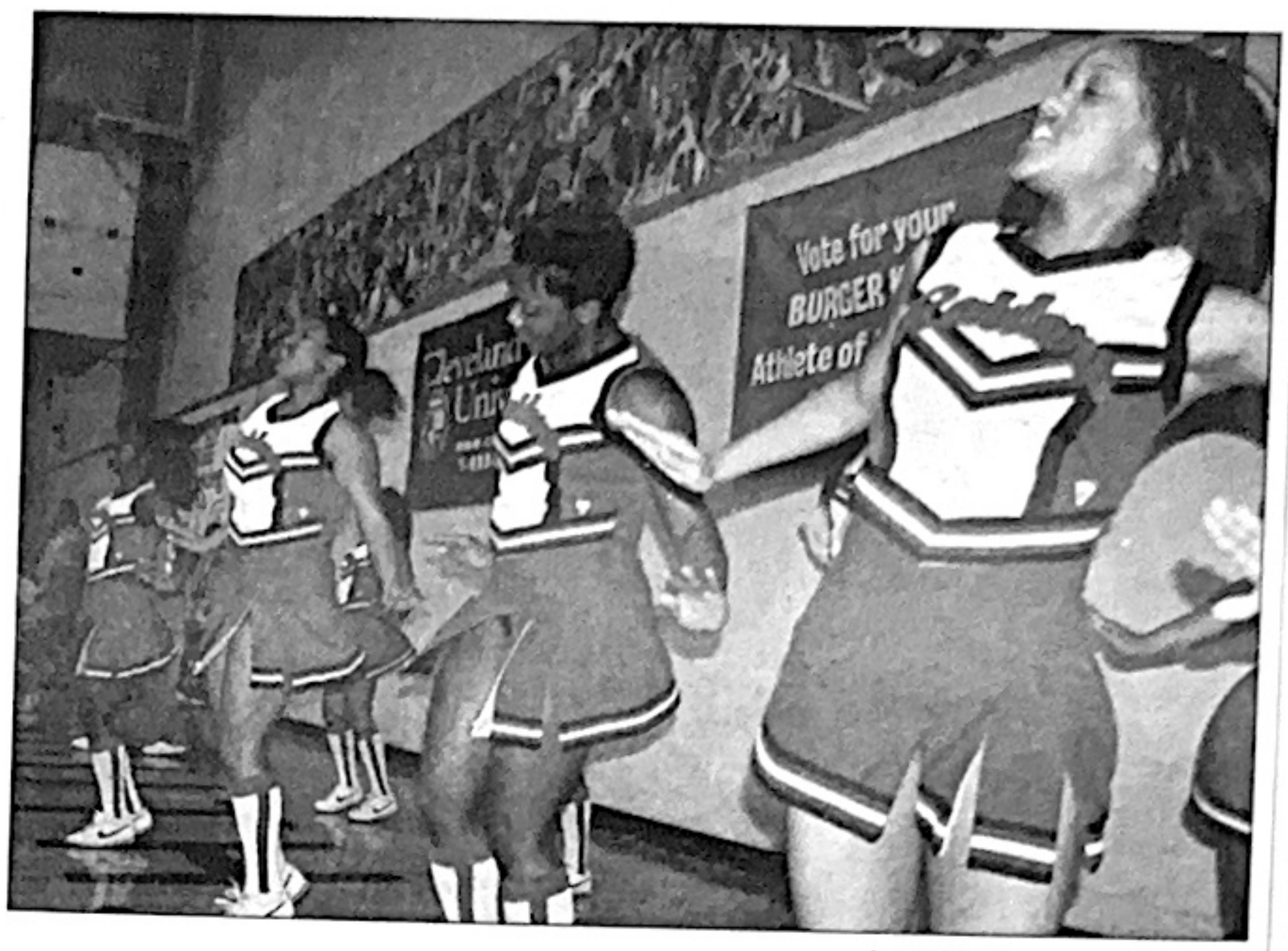
A major hurdle for the team was the cost of traveling. Squads must make a more than 20-hour bus ride, and travel expenses will total almost $750. Fund raising has only helped defray the cost a little."We did one fund raiser dealing with pizza and pretzels. That one went really well," senior Angelique Cromwell said. Other attempts have not been as successful.

The road to nationals has not been easy, but the team has pulled together on many occasions. The varsity team, led by seniors Stephanie Kelly-Nunn and Cristin Wood, and the JV team, led by Cromwell and Turner, have bonded during the 10 months they have been a team.

"We understand that we have to squash whatever the problem is and get through it," said senior Danielle Walker, a member of the varsity team.

The team is optimistic about their chances at the national level, in part due to their placing at the regional competition. The team has one move that they feel is a trump card.

"We do a push-up where none of our feet are on the ground," Katie Sharp, a senior member of the varsity squad said.


Astrid Matthews • THE SHAKERITE

SENIORS SHARMAYNE FREEMAN, Cristin Wood, Stephanie Kelly-Nunn and Danielle Walker perform a cheer during a basketball game against Cleveland Heights on March 8.

Many members of the team feel they have differentiated themselves from their competition through their unique style.

"I remember . . . the All Star team. They did hip-hop, but personally I didn't think it was creative and as fun as ours. I don't think that they got the crowd as pumped," Walker said.

Walker added that winning is not everything; the performance must be fun as well. "It's just a good feeling, even if we don't win, just to get the crowd into whatever we're doing."

Taking the pain to achieve the gain

• Spartan sessions test mental toughness as much as endurance of participants

FROM SPARTAN, PAGE 16

similar to the spring sessions.

Participants must have had a physical within the past year. Though the nature of the workout is challenging and vigorous, the intention is not for the athletes to need the wastebaskets.

"Sometimes people put too much value to 'Oh, this guy puked and that lady collapsed,'" Hoskins said.

Sedmak said that many athletes do not realize their potential and the goal of the high-intensity workouts is to push them out of their comfort zone.

"Some people might look at it as being barbaric. It's really easy to live comfortably, but you're not gonna achieve anything. You have to teach the kids that the world's not gonna end if they get out of that comfort zone."

All participants agreed that the pain is worth the gain.

"In a wrestling match, or whatever you're doing, when you get tired, because you've done a Spartan, you can do anything," sophomore Jesus Medina said.

"I think it made [football] a lot easier," junior Mike Bell said. "When you're tired your body can do way more than your mind thinks it can. You can push through it, and when you realize that, there ain't no stopping you."

The March 13 Spartan Session was held inside and the workouts were mainly sprints across the gym. The athletes were divided into three groups of football players- backs, linemen and receivers. Other athletes could choose their group.

The first quarter consisted of five sets of suicides to four points on the floor. During the workout, Sedmak warned the participants not to bend over or show signs of weakness.

"When your opponents do that, you got 'em," he said. "We're not here this morning to develop weakness."

The second quarter included sprinting, high knees, bounding and hopping on one or both legs. During the three-minute halftime, participants drank water or Gatorade, stretched or collapsed on the floor.

The third quarter was similar to the first, but in the fourth quarter athletes shuffled, ran backwards and sprinted.

Just when the workout seemed finished and the athletes completely exhausted, overtime began. For each of 15 push-ups, the name of an opposing football team was shouted to represent ten regular-season football games and five playoff games, leading to the state championship. Finally, Bell led the participants in stretching.

Medina said the conclusion of the session was the most rewarding because "you know you just finished the workout that nobody else did. You're one of the toughest in the school cause you just did a Spartan workout."

Mike Bell
junior

"When you're tired your body can do way more than your mind thinks it can. You can push through it, and when you realize that, there ain't no stopping you."

"You wanna go to sleep in class. Just knowing I got teachers breathing down my neck, they'll go to Coach Sedmak. I got to set an example for the rest of the team."

Jock Williams
junior

"Mentally you know that your competitors probably aren't doing the same thing as you are right then, so it gets you pumped," sophomore hockey player Matt Koletsky said.

Koletsky and other athletes said the constant cheering and competition from other participants motivates them. When athletes struggle during outdoor workouts, their teammates often jog with them for encouragement.

Junior Shayvell Conner broke a tendon in his foot but came to join in the cheering and participate in the overtime push-ups.

"If I hadn't broke my foot, I woulda been here. So I came just to cheer 'em on and show 'em my support," said Connor, who plans to try out for football.

Photo Illustration By Astrid Matthews

Freshman Alex Math, who completed his first Spartan Session March 13, said it was both physically exhausting and rewarding.

"I kept looking around and seeing the rest of these players out there and knew it was all about next season and working for a 10-0 record and hopefully going to the playoffs," said Math, a football player.

Before the athletes left for class, Sedmak told them to go to all their classes and practices as though nothing had happened because complaining is a sign of weakness.

Junior football player Jock Williams said he's used to acting normally during the day after a Spartan Session. "You wanna go to sleep in class. Just knowing I got teachers breathing down my neck, they'll go to Coach Sedmak. I got to set an example for the rest of the team," Williams said.

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Shaker hosts fencing championship

• The first ever High School and Middle School Fencing Championships were held at Shaker during a two-day event in March.

Three Shaker students placed in the tournament. Shaker freshmen Stephen Cabrera, Nicolas Bethoux and sophomore Andrew Schiraldi finished second, third and fourth, respectively, during the March 9th Epee Championships.

Fencing Coach William Reith, who coordinated the event, was happy with the meet. "It went beautifully," he said, and added that even with approximately 35 participants everything ran smoothly.

Basketball falls in district final

• The men's basketball team fell to Cleveland Hts. 87-67 on March 8, ending their season in the district finals. The team finished fifth in the LEL with a 7-7 record.

The team was led by All-LEL senior Anthony Teague, who averaged 21 points per game. He was also named first team All-District and honorable mention All-Ohio.

Teammates Steve Heard, Paul Sadler and Zach Woodie were named Honorable Mention All-LEL.

Crew begins first varsity season

• The women's crew team is preparing to begin its inaugural season as a varsity sport at the high school. They have been conditioning all winter and began practicing on the water March 18.

The team has three regattas scheduled, including the Midwest Rowing Championships. They are led by coach Kevin Dahlhausen and senior co-captains Laura Kangas and Theresa Lee.

"I think this is one of our best years," Lee, a four-year rower, said.

Katherine Ekeberg

GOOFY GAMES

The North American Wife Carrying Championship

- **Men carry women** over a 300-yard, uphill obstacle course during the annual event held in Maine and prizes include the woman's weight in beer. The preferred carry is **the Estonian**, where the woman holds on upside down against the man's back.

Integration OR Polarization

Will Bostwick • THE SHAKERITE

• Which team you try out for has a lot to do with who your friends are

According to information obtained from the Shaker's Athletic Department and Data Processing Department, 16 of 22 varsity sports have 70 percent caucasian participants or 70 percent African-American participants. Golf is 100 percent caucasian and men's basketball 100 percent African American.

Brian Gamm • THE SHAKERITE

BY JEFF GREENWALD
STAFF REPORTER

The hardest battles for racial equality in professional sports have been over for decades, and although there are still a disproportionate number of caucasians in upper management positions, athletes are judged chiefly by their talent and not their color.

Yet, in many Shaker sports, a large gap between the number of caucasians and the number of African-Americans on a team persists. According to information obtained from the Athletic Department and Data Processing Department, 16 of 22 sports teams consist of 70 percent African-American students or 70 percent caucasian students.

Athletic Director David Sedmak found the differences in racial composition to be a non-issue.

"My perception is that adolescents are attracted to sports that their friends play, and most black kids' and most white kids' closest friends are of the same race," he said. "It's just a comfort factor. I think most kids tend to get along with each other just fine."

The differences between integrated teams and teams of primarily one race are not about skill. Rather, player relationships-essential to a strong squad-are different. Sophomore Brian Wood said that having an integrated team benefits team chemistry.

"Skill-wise, it doesn't matter as much, but when you have an integrated team it makes you a lot stronger and makes you look at things differently," said Wood, who was one of three African Americans on the varsity hockey team.

"It allows you to see things from different points of view because, typically, each race sees a lot of different problems from different viewpoints," he said.

When a team goes through difficult stretches racial diversity could make them stronger or could create greater turmoil. "I think that when the team has troubles, it's a team thing, not a racial thing," sophomore cross-country and former track runner Ellie Kibbe said.

However, problems can arise on an integrated squad that could cause a racial split. "Teams often, even with primarily one race, can divide into cliques. If a team isn't united, it can divide along racial lines," Wood said.

Racial affinity for certain sports is not limited to Shaker. Hal Wertich, an athletic director at Chapel Hill High School in Chapel Hill, N. C., sees a similar pattern. "Swimming and tennis and golf are primarily caucasian," he said, also acknowledging that sports such as basketball are primarily African American.

Most people believe that the division is something that is subconscious and based on tastes and preferences. "I feel that more people of all races should try out, but it's mainly about what they know and like," said sophomore Steve Katz, who plays on the all-caucasian golf team.

Athletes receive many perceptions about sports from the media. "Kids look for familiarities among themselves. When they see someone on TV that is the same color as them, they gravitate toward that person," Kibbe said.

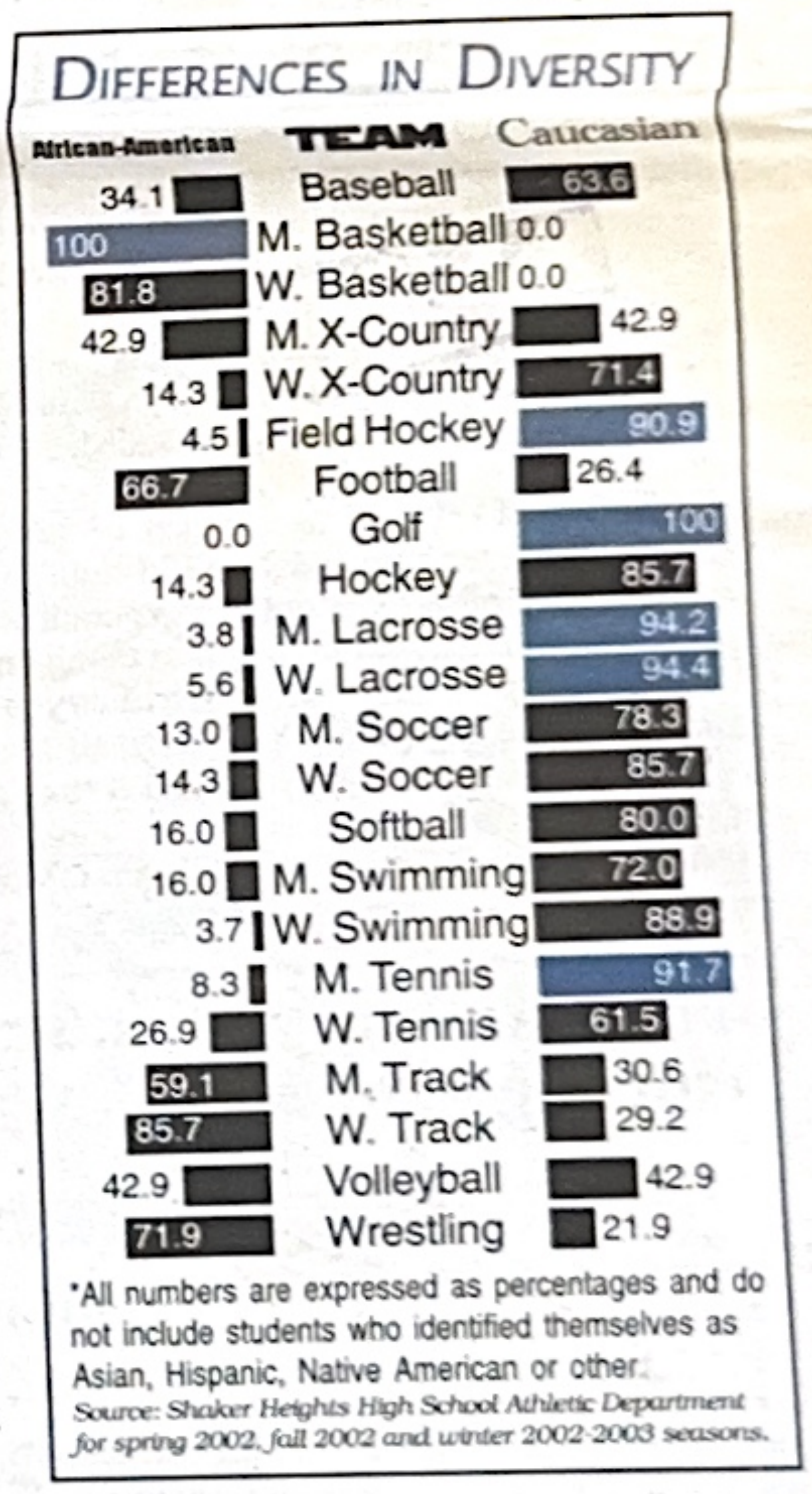
Senior Jarryd Tribble agreed. "I can't remember the last time I sat down to watch a professional hockey or soccer game," he said. "It's a matter of interest and what you are surrounded by."

The choice of many kids to play a certain sport has a lot to do with their environment. "It all starts when your little in the rec leagues. It's all about what your parents get you started in," Tribble said.

Katz believed that opening recreation centers to promote different sports to people of different genders and races would be a good idea. "People begin to like other sports by just learning more about it and practicing it more," he said.

Wertich agreed, saying that things could change over time, but the best approach is to be proactive. "If they don't get the opportunity, they're never going to try it," he said.

DIFFERENCES IN DIVERSITY



African-American	TEAM	Caucasian
34.1	Baseball	63.6
100	M. Basketball	0.0
81.8	W. Basketball	0.0
42.9	M. X-Country	42.9
14.3	W. X-Country	71.4
4.5	Field Hockey	90.9
66.7	Football	26.4
0.0	Golf	100
14.3	Hockey	85.7
3.8	M. Lacrosse	94.2
5.6	W. Lacrosse	94.4
13.0	M. Soccer	78.3
14.3	W. Soccer	85.7
16.0	Softball	80.0
16.0	M. Swimming	72.0
3.7	W. Swimming	88.9
8.3	M. Tennis	91.7
26.9	W. Tennis	61.5
59.1	M. Track	30.6
85.7	W. Track	29.2
42.9	Volleyball	42.9
71.9	Wrestling	21.9

*All numbers are expressed as percentages and do not include students who identified themselves as Asian, Hispanic, Native American or other.

Source: Shaker Heights High School Athletic Department for spring 2002, fall 2002 and winter 2002-2003 seasons.

Pushing through the pain like a hardy, ancient Spartan

• Spartan sessions put mind and body through vigorous early morning workouts

BY MEAGHAN STEINER
STAFF REPORTER

"In case your breakfast should come up, there's a wastebasket in that corner, there's a wastebasket in that corner," head football coach David Sedmak said to the athletes assembled in the north gym, before asking Strength and Conditioning Coach Mark Hoskins and Head Wrestling Coach Marc Enie to bring more wastebaskets.

"If you pace yourself, we defeated the purpose of doing this... If you want to pace yourself, I suggest you move to Cleveland Heights," Sedmak warned.

SOPHOMORE KEVAN MORGAN places his hands on top of his head in an attempt to open up his lungs to more air. Morgan participated alongside 105 student athletes in a high intensity early morning workout on March 13 known as a Spartan Session.

Sarah Wang • THE SHAKERITE

On March 13, 105 wrestling, football, men's lacrosse, hockey and baseball players, along with one women's basketball player, arrived at 6:30 am to participate in a Spartan session.

The workouts are composed of four intense, 12-minute quarters and a three-minute overtime workout to resemble a football game, and are held monthly from March to July. There is a one-minute rest between each quarter and a three-minute halftime. Their purpose is to improve mental toughness, cardiovascular conditioning and team spirit in the off-season.

Spartan Sessions originated as off-season training for football players in 1997. Sedmak adapted Chardon High School's Comanche Club workouts for his team. Individuals from other teams began participating in 2001.

Last year, the wrestling and hockey teams began their own Spartan Sessions, with three 15-minute periods to replicate hockey games and wrestling matches. According to Enie, the fall sessions are otherwise

SEE SPARTAN, PAGE 15